

Walsall & Willenhall CHRONICLE

Thursday, July 26, 2018

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Youth hurt as masked gang targets family business

TEENAGE BOY IS SHOT BY RAIDERS

By Luke Bartlett

A TEENAGE boy was shot with a gas gun as a family business was targeted by a gang of up to 15 masked men.

The boy was taken to hospital and had a metal bearing removed from his head, just above his eye, and his hand, said the company's boss.

He was one of two teenagers left fearing for their lives after the raid on crane business Midland Safe Load Indicators Ltd, on Watling Street, Brownhills. The gang was also armed with a machete.

A Ford Transit van, a magnetic drill, heavy-duty batteries, brass fittings and a pump jack were all taken from the site, which is also used to send shipments to Gambia on the weekends. The raid occurred at round 4am on Monday.

Boss Caroline Degville said she was left 'traumatised' for the teenagers and believes the site was specifically targeted.

The 50-year-old, who has managed the business for 10 years, said: "It is a crane business which we run Monday to Friday and I also run an export business on a weekend.

Threatened

"We were working on a container and it was late when we finished. The lads stay overnight in the caravan and they are picked up in the morning. Around 3.30am they heard the workshop roller shutters go up.

"It has got to be somebody that knows that we are here. I think they were targeting something in particular.

"I'm more fearful and upset for the boys. The gang, of around 10 to 15, threatened them and they had machetes. They heard them in the caravan and threatened to kill them.

"I am traumatised for the boys. The one has just been released from hospital and they removed a metal bearing, shot from the gun, from his head, just above his eye, and his hand - that is how serious it was."

Forensics officers from Staffordshire Police combed through the site for evidence and an appeal for witnesses has now been launched.

Police confirmed the 19-year-old, who was sent to Walsall Manor, did not suffer life-threatening or life-changing injuries.

A spokesman said: "Anyone with information is asked to call Staffordshire Police on 101 quoting incident 91 of 23 July."

PARK PLAQUE REMEMBERS GREAT WAR FALLEN



Labour councillors Chris and Paul Bott with the plaque in King's Hall Park, Darlaston

A PLAQUE to commemorate the First World War has been installed in a park in Walsall.

Labour councillors Paul and Chris Bott unveiled the plaque at Kings Hall Park's gates in Darlaston in memory of those who lost their lives.

The plaque, which cost £1,400, was funded thanks to the support of Councillor Sean Coughlan, leader of the Labour group. An oak tree has also been planted to commemorate the centenary of the war's end.

Councillor Paul Bott, said: "Chris and myself thought that there ought to be a fitting

tribute to the Great War. Next to the Kings Hall park there was a church, St Andrew's. They had some stained glass windows as a memorial for those soldiers that were killed in the Great War.

"The gates were the nearest thing to the church. The church has been sold and turned into apartments. The windows have been saved and are now in Darlaston Town Hall."

Another plaque has already been placed and unveiled at Moxley War Memorial - which both councillors helped to restore.

Mr Bott added: "It's a great commemora-

tion for those who lived in the area and who died. All the feedback we have had has been positive.

"The oak trees will be a symbol of everlasting. They will be there when residents forget when the Great War finished and it will be a symbol.

"We also planned two oak trees, one at Moxley and the other at Kings Hall Park and the friends of the two parks funded it.

"You can never forget the sacrifice that those men made from Moxley and Kings Hall."

INQUEST

Attack victim died from a head injury

A MAN who was attacked outside the pub where he worked died of a head injury, an inquest opening heard.

Matthew Powney, of Wolverhampton, died outside The Malthouse pub, New Road, Willenhall on July 9. The 31-year-old was standing in the bus stop outside the Wetherspoons pub when an altercation broke out on a bus, the inquest heard.

Black Country Coroners Court heard he was subsequently attacked and died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Following a post-mortem, the provisional cause of death was ruled as a head injury.

Shaun Addison, 27, of Furzebank Way, Willenhall, has been charged with murder and wounding another man. Senior coroner Zafar Siddique suspended the inquest due to the ongoing investigation.

EMERGENCY

Streets flooded as water main bursts

ROADS turned into rivers in Walsall after a burst water main flooded a number of residential streets.

West Midlands Fire Service were called to help deal with the flood early on Tuesday morning.

Homes were affected on Fallowfield Road, Skip Lane and Longmeadow Road.

Engineers from South Staffs Water also attended to support residents.

JUSTICE

Frontline police figures plummet

THE number of frontline police officers in the West Midlands has plummeted over the last year, Home Office figures show.

West Midlands Police had 5,630 officers available for frontline duties in March - down 566 from 2017. The number of police officers across England and Wales has dropped to its lowest level since 1996.

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INSIDE

CHURCH RINGS THE CHANGES



PAGE 5

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MPs stress need for more police officers

MPS say more frontline police officers are needed 'as a matter of urgency' to quell the surge in crime across the region.

Across the West Midlands crime has risen by 37 per cent in five years, with huge increases in violent incidents, sex offences and robberies.

Figures released this week revealed the number of police officers across the country had hit a record low, with West Midlands Police losing almost a quarter of its officers in the last seven years.

And MPs from across the party divide have called for increased funding for police forces – with boosting the number of bobbies on the beat a priority.

Eddie Hughes, Conservative MP for Walsall North, vowed to 'continue to lobby for more cash'.

However, he said he was concerned about where the new cash would be spent, accusing West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner David Jamieson of not making the best use of previous funding.

"The PCC has had money and has spent it elsewhere, while what we really need as a matter of urgency is more frontline police officers," he said.

"Meanwhile stations are closing down. The argument about frontline policing is that they don't catch criminals in the act, but that is taking away from the fact that they provide a major deterrent

to crime. People must feel that they are safe and secure and criminals must know that they can get caught. Sadly, this isn't the case."

The PCC says he is doing all he can to drive efficiencies, which are 'helping officers spend more time tackling crime'.

Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson said the rise in crime was a result of Government austerity measures and 'slashing the number of police on our streets'.

In the year to March 2018, officer numbers across the country fell from 123,142 to 122,404 – a fall of 0.6 per cent.

Experts say 15,000 new homes each year needed

ALMOST 15,000 homes need to be built in the West Midlands every year, according to housing experts.

The West Midlands Combined Authority is urging councils to speed up the delivery of housing, bringing in 215,000 dwellings by 2031.

Currently, 13,248 homes are to be built, according to Local Plans, for each council across the West Midlands. A Spatial Investment and Delivery Plan published by the WMCA, says 14,435 need to be built each year.

Land has already been earmarked in each local authority area for new homes, which is in the report.

In Walsall, 310 homes are to be built at the former Reedswood Caparo factory and 395 homes in Goscoe.

In Wolverhampton, they include 250 new homes on the city canal side and at transport interchange; homes at the former Springfield Campus, 339 homes at the former Wolverhampton Royal, 265 homes at a cleared industrial site off Cable Street and 365 homes in Heath Town.

In Dudley town centre, more than 300 new homes will be built, while there will also be housing development going alongside the new Metro line which heads to Wednesbury.

Two sentenced over boxing venue brawl

IT started with a full plastic cup being tossed into the air but soon tables, chairs and punches were being thrown at the end of a ticket only boxing event's headline bout, a judge heard.

The violence would end with a young man being stabbed to death outside Walsall Town Hall where the evening was staged.

Increasingly rowdy rival fans clashed as the near 600-strong crowd waited for the judges' verdict at the end of the fight involving a local fighter and one from Derbyshire, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Mr Gerry Bermingham, prosecuting, said: "The brawl erupted as they waited for the decision. A plastic cup containing drink was thrown followed by chairs and tables. Then fights broke out."

Footage

There was no CCTV footage of the violence but some of the action was captured on mobile phones with 43-year-old Lee Hickinbottom, who was wearing a distinctive red T-shirt, appearing in some of these.

"The clips show disorder among the supporters of both boxers and he is seen to throw two chairs and a table," said Mr Bermingham. "Whoever threw the plastic cup of drink lit the spark of violence but this was more than fanned by the behaviour of this defendant. It led others to throw furniture and the room erupted."

"He was certainly one of the more aggressive and became actively involved in the disorder. The disturbance did not last long, a few minutes at most. When it finished two distinct groups exited from the hall. Outside there was a fatality." The defendant was stabbed in the shoulder during violence outside. A table being used by fans of the Derbyshire boxer was overturned at the end of the eighth



Organiser Naomi Burnett with Strictly star Natalie Lowe

Strictly star gives dancers Lowe-down

STRICTLY Come Dancing star Natalie Lowe helped dancers get in the groove.

The Australian dancer is a co-creator of the Fitsteps programme which uses ballroom and Latin dances to get fit.

She was at Barr Beacon School and Leisure Centre to deliver a Be Inspired dance fitness masterclass and workshop organised by Fitsteps instructor Naomi Burnett.

Natalie, who left Strictly in 2016 after competing for seven series, delivered a 45 minute workshop, demonstrating technique to strengthen and tone as well as teaching the budding dancers how to perfect their own dance steps.

Natalie then delivered a 45 minute Fitsteps master class to burn calories before the participants got to have a photo taken with the star.

Organiser Naomi said: "It was a fantastic day, we had people of all ages and abilities attend, some of which had never done Fitsteps before and everyone was full of positive comments about how much they had enjoyed themselves and how much fun they had had."

To join one of Naomi's Fitsteps classes and learn to dance like the Stars of Strictly, call Naomi on 07784489510.

round, the court heard. The culprits were warned they would be evicted if they did not behave.

Lorry driver Phillip Smith, who was at the October 14 event with his 16-year-old son and son-in-law, was captured on film throwing a chair that had been hurled in his direction.

The 52-year-old, who was of previous good character, was later stabbed

in the stomach and back amid the further trouble outside the Town Hall, said Mr Carl Templar-Vasey, defending, who added: "He is a hard-working loyal family man who deeply regrets getting involved in this. It was completely out of character."

Mr James Bruce, defending, Hickinbottom, who had 17 previous convictions, said: "Of course he threw

those items. He does not suggest he was a hapless bystander. He takes full responsibility for his actions."

Hickinbottom from Dryden Road, Bloxwich was jailed for 18 months while Smith, of Harrison Street, Bloxwich, was given an eight month prison term suspended for a year with 150 hours unpaid work and a two month night time curfew.

Charity placed on awards shortlist

A CHARITY has been shortlisted for a prestigious award for its work in people management.

Walsall-based Steps to Work has been shortlisted in the Excellence in the Third Sector category at The Investors in People Awards 2018.

The awards celebrate the best people management practices amongst Investors in People-accredited businesses. James Walsh, CEO at Steps to Work, said: "It is a privilege to be shortlisted for this award, a clear indication of the dedication and hard work the team has invested in the business."

"We are thrilled to have been recognised for our hard work. We believe in supporting people to build a better future and this runs through our whole DNA as an organisation."

Waiting times for ambulances rise

THE number of ambulances waiting more than an hour outside Walsall Manor Hospital has gone up from one in April to five in May.

The number of ambulances waiting more than half an hour fell from 43 to 42.

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No-one turns up for crisis summit on Leaf Centre

AN emergency meeting to discuss failings at a troubled school had to be abandoned after nobody turned up.

The parents and guardians of all 142 pupils at the New Leaf Centre in Walsall were invited to the meeting by council bosses to discuss the school's 'inadequate' Ofsted rating.

But Walsall Council's education chief, Councillor Christopher Towse, said he was disappointed when not a single person attended the meeting.

The centre in Pelsall Lane, Rushall, was given Ofsted's bottom rating across the board after inspectors found a series of failings, including poor behaviour from pupils, dirty facilities, rock-bottom achievement and insufficient governance from the council.

It caters for some of the most vulnerable children in the borough, many of whom have been excluded from mainstream education.

Walsall Council's Conservative-led administration, which regained control of the authority in May, has vowed to push through the changes necessary. Mr Towse said: "We are committed to bringing up standards."

Mr Towse said he planned to visit the centre in the coming weeks. A recently-appointed interim head-teacher, Phillip Sharrock, and an interim senior secondary leader were already 'beginning to halt the decline in standards', according to Ofsted.

Chemists forced to close by cuts

ELEVEN community pharmacies have closed in the West Midlands since 2016, new figures show.

Nationwide, there have been 140 closures.

Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall and West Bromwich have all been affected since the Department of Health and Social Care cut the sector's funding in 2016. Of the West Midlands closures, there were five from Lloyds Pharmacy, one from Boots and two independent pharmacy closures.

The reduced funding for community pharmacies in England was the equivalent of 12 per cent up until March 2017, followed by a further 7.4 per cent funding drop the following financial year. The information comes from trade publication Chemist+Druggist.

Book group at fair

PHEASEY Book Borrowers will be at a summer fair today (Thursday) to raise awareness about their work.

The fair will be from 11am to 2pm at the Collingwood Community Centre in Great Barr.

New programme to boost fostering



Foster carers at the launch event

AN innovative new programme has taken flight for fostering families in the West Midlands.

Walsall Council is the first local authority in the region to implement Fostering Network's Mockingbird Programme. The initiative aims to empower foster carers and give children a more positive experience of being in foster care.

Walsall's Fostering Team launched two 'constellations' of fostering families with an experienced 'hub home' foster carer at the heart of each.

Based on an extended fam-

ily model, each Mockingbird constellation provides additional support to their satellite fostering families and also builds links with other family members and people who are part of the young person's care plan.

Councillor Tim Wilson, portfolio holder for children's health and wellbeing, shared his hopes for the new programme at the launch event.

He said: "Being a foster carer and looking after some of Walsall's most vulnerable young people is such a vital role. The Mockingbird Programme will help us to

support our foster carers in their fantastic work and make it even more rewarding for them."

The Mockingbird Family Model of foster care, implemented in partnership with UK charity Fostering Network, has shown positive results across the other organisations who have already adopted it.

For more information on becoming a foster carer or becoming part of a Mockingbird constellation, please call 0800 923 3706, or people can visit the website www.fosteringin-walsall.co.uk.

13-and-a-half years for £1m drugs gang leader

THE ringleader of a gang which imported at least £1million worth of cocaine into the UK from Jamaica has been jailed for more than 13 years.

Nigel Roberts, a barber from Streetly, was identified as the organiser behind three importations of cocaine into UK airports.

The 41-year-old, of Laneside Avenue, has been sentenced to 13 and a half years behind bars for his involvement in the drug operation.

He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to import cocaine and was sentenced at Minshull Street Crown Court.

In total, he and three others, all from London, were sentenced to a total of 37 and a half years in prison, with one more still to be sentenced.

Courier

The National Crime Agency began investigating the group in June 2016 following a Border Force seizure of 5kg of cocaine concealed in packets of coconut milk powder at Manchester Airport. Each seizure consisted of between 5kg to 10kg of cocaine.

In the first importation, Roberts worked with two others to recruit a courier in order to bring the drugs back from Jamaica in a suitcase.

Days after the arrest of another accomplice, Roberts sent a voice note saying: "I'm on a bad luck streak, one of my ships crashed again."

In addition to complicit couriers, the group sometimes used vulnerable and unknowing participants to smuggle the drugs for them.

John Hughes, Operations Manager at the NCA, said: "Roberts and his network were involved in a potentially lucrative business importing class A drugs into the UK."

"Not only would these profits have gone on to fund the supply of dangerous drugs, it would have fuelled the violence we so regularly see associated with this kind of activity."

Making a Bolt for school's 40th



Ellie Langstone 13, Chelsea Bishton 13 and Ellie Dutton take selfie with street artist Ryan Phillips

FAMILIES flocked to Cheslyn Hay High School for a day of fun to mark its 40th anniversary, including a chance to pose with a 3D mural of Usain Bolt.

Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School opened in July 1978 and, to mark its milestone,

threw a summer fete party with stalls and games for the public.

Visitors could take guided tours, enjoy variety of sports, and a reunion room was set up.

Virgin Media, which is currently installing its ultrafast broadband networks in Cheslyn

Hay, arranged for a street artist to create an eye-catching three-dimensional image of 100m world record holder Usain Bolt breaking through the ground. The 3D mural was created specifically for the day and was set up in the school's courtyard.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Roadworks set to cause delays

DRIVERS are set to expect delays on a busy Walsall route for six weeks while roadworks take place.

Temporary traffic lights are in place 24 hours a day on the A461 Lichfield Road at the junction of B4152 Salters Road.

Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd is carrying out gas main diversions as part of a highway improvement scheme on behalf of Cadent Gas.

From tomorrow (Friday) and over the weekend until next Monday, temporary traffic lights will be in place half a mile up the road at the junction with Chester Road as South Staffs Water repair a leak.

Vulnerable helped back into work

PEOPLE with mental health illnesses or long-term physical health conditions are being urged to sign up for a pilot scheme that aims to help them get back into employment.

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust is launching the Thrive into Work programme to test a new employment support service offering one-to-one support.

The programme is a key element of the Thrive West Midlands action plan developed by the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Mental Health Commission.

Help is at hand for the bereaved

PEOPLE grieving after the loss of a loved one can get support through a bereavement help point.

St Giles Hospice is working with Manor Farm Community Association and the Making Connections service in Walsall to offer advice and information on emotional and practical support to the bereaved. They operate 11 help points, one on Tuesdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Rushall Community Centre, Springfields.

Full details of all locations are at www.stgileshospice.com/bereavement-help-points

Wolves heroes to play in charity match

A CHARITY football match featuring former professional players has been organised by the Little Angels of Birmingham Children's Hospital group.

The former players team will take on a hospital and Darlaston Town veterans XI at Darlaston's Bentley Road North ground on Sunday at 3pm.

It is raising funds for the hospital and among the players will be former Wolves stars Mel Eves and Jody Craddock.

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COUNTY NEWS

Motorcycle thefts 'epidemic' petition

A PETITION to has been launched to stop the 'epidemic' of motorcycle theft in the West Midlands.

Motorcycle Action Group, which started the petition, has called upon Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson and West Midlands Police to give the issue 'higher priority'.

The petition reads: "Victims of bike theft need more than a crime number, we need positive action that will deliver results."

The petition has so far attracted 196 signatures. View it at <https://www.change.org/p/david-jamieson-put-an-end-to-the-motorcycle-theft-epidemic-in-the-west-midlands>

Cosford's build-up to summer spying

SECRET agents in the making are being invited to enter a world of espionage. RAF Cosford will hold its Summer of Spies Workshops on August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

The events include Minecraft and Lego group activities themed around spy cars, creating virtual aeroplanes and code challenges.

The half day runs from 9am until midday, with the full day taking place from 9am until 4pm.

Entry costs £20 for a half day and £30 for a full day.

For more information about the museum's August activities visit raf-museum.org/cosford.

Intermission to start at gallery

A NEW exhibition is set to open next month. Grace A Williams' Intermission will open at The New Art Gallery Walsall on August 10, with a preview on August 9 between 6-8pm.

The exhibition, which runs until November 10, will see a two-screen projection focused on the gaze of two men whose portraits appeared on nineteenth century slides. For more information, visit: <https://thenew-artgallerywalsall.org.uk/exhibition/grace-a-williams-intermission/>

More than a Lidl boost for sales in World Cup

LIDL supermarkets experienced the highest numbers of shoppers ever outside the Christmas period during the World Cup.

The Second busiest day in the chain's history was on June 30 with customers up 12 per cent on the same day in 2017. World Cup barbecues drove sales across meat and poultry, and beer, wine and spirits, with burger sales up 45 per cent.

HomeServe set to enter FTSE 100

HOMESERVE, which employs more than 1,500 at its head office in Walsall, is set to become a member of the prestigious FTSE 100 by the end of the year.

The company's UK chief executive Greg Reed revealed to a business breakfast event at Wolverhampton's The Way Youth Zone last week that the home emergency repairs company now had a capital value of £3.3 billion.

It means it will qualify for Footsie – the Financial Times stock exchange index – membership as one of the top 100 companies on the London Stock Exchange with the highest market capitalisation.

American-born Mr Reed, who joined HomeServe in 2012 as chief marketing officer after a career in banking, outlined to the invited audience on how he had masterminded the

turnaround of the company, which has its headquarters at Cable Drive, after it was hit with a £30.6m fine by the Financial Conduct Authority – its largest-ever retail fine – in 2014 over mis-selling issues, lost £1bn in market capitalisation and made 1,000 redundancies. "I am very proud to be in the Midlands," said Mr Reed, who was recently named Europe's most progressive leader in the 2017 Tal-

ent Unleashed Awards. "The people in Walsall are lovely and will do anything for you. It is a great place to have a business and a great place for a global headquarters."

He said that HomeServe was a great place to work and 95 per cent of its staff were proud to tell people that they worked there adding that the firm tried to ensure all staff realised their importance to the operation.

Academy bosses under fire over redundancies

By Tom Oakley

A WALSALL school has been slammed by union chiefs after cutting 13 'vital' classroom roles.

GMB has condemned Bloxwich Academy's decision to make the school support staff redundant.

The school, based at Leamore Lane, has been forced into making the job cuts across both its primary and secondary sites.

The union claims the academy's management did not identify any alternative cost-saving measures and only put the redundancies forward as a single option.

Staff have now been told that they will leave at the end of the summer term, according to GMB.

Justine Jones, GMB organiser, said: "This is a massive blow to our members. They are some of the lowest paid workers at the academy, but consistently go above and beyond the call of duty to support the pupils."

Shortage

"As a first step, academies should look at their management and administrative costs before looking to take away vital support from the most vulnerable pupils."

Bloxwich Academy blamed the shortage of national funding for the redundancies – insisting it was 'confident' with its support staff going forward.

Headteacher of the school, Andy Seager, said: "Whilst Bloxwich academy is delighted to be the most improved school in the country for pupil progress and being oversubscribed in many year groups from Year One through to Year 11, we find ourselves along with other schools and academies having to make cutbacks due to the current national funding shortage faced this forthcoming academic year."

Sew much fun with charity project



Teachers and pupils showing off their completed quilts at Glenthorne Primary, Cheslyn Hay

YOUNGSTERS had sew much fun on their latest school topic. All year groups at Glenthorne Primary, Cheslyn Hay, were involved in making children's quilts for a charity called Project Linus UK.

Pupils created quilts for children who are seriously ill in hospital and have to spend a long time there. Each child contributed towards by sewing individual squares which were then stitched together to produce a quilt.

The project was linked with the school's Glenthorne Goes Global topic, which saw the youngsters celebrate different cultures from around the world.

The finished products will be donated to the children's

ward at Walsall Manor Hospital, where some will be put on display in glass cabinets along the corridors. They will first go on show at the Museum of Cannock Chase in Hednesford until August 3.

Project Linus distributes on average 3,500 quilts, per month from all over the UK. Kerrie Padmore, from 'Sewing with Kerrie', has organised this and is aiming to produce 100 quilts in 2018, towards the total, with Glenthorne Primary having done nine of them.

On September 23 at Cannock Fire Station, volunteers are welcome to join Kerrie and help contribute towards their target total of 100. Call 07595 960535.

Shop staff praised on £3m effort for NSPCC

AN awards ceremony has honoured employees at Spar store operator Blakemore Retail who have helped raise more than £3 million for the NSPCC.

The huge total was raised by Walsall's Blakemore Retail over the last decade through a wide range of fundraising events and challenges.

A glittering event was hosted by the NSPCC in Birmingham at the Everyman Cinema to thank those who have gone above and beyond. As one of the charity's longest-standing partners, Blakemore Retail has previously supported NSPCC services such as Childline and the Helpline.

Money raised recently has been used to support the School Service, which visits primary schools across the country to deliver the NSPCC's Speak Out. Stay Safe campaign.

The campaign teaches children about abuse in an age-appropriate way, and advises children on what to do if anything worries them. Alizée Moreau, NSPCC fundraiser, said: "We wanted to show our support and gratitude towards the staff at Blakemore Retail for the incredible fundraising work they have done for the NSPCC."

"The staggering amount they have raised over the past 10 years has been invaluable, and their continued support means that the NSPCC can reach yet more children in schools as part of our Speak Out. Stay Safe campaign."

Among the eight award winners were Allen Collett, who scooped the Special Achievement Award. Over the past seven years, Mr Collett, who has been described as having 'unbelievable' passion and determination for fundraising.

Light show set to bring classic Elvis

THE King of Rock and Roll's famous 1968 comeback concert will be shown at a cinema in Walsall next month to celebrate the concert's 50th anniversary.

Elvis Presley's comeback concert, which was recorded on December 3, 1968 and aired as a TV special, will be shown at Light Cinema in Wolverhampton Street on August 16 from 7.30pm until 9.50pm.

The special sees Elvis perform his greatest hits, alone and with Scotty Moore and DJ Fontana, and includes a cinema exclusive special introduction and studio tour by Steve Binder, the original producer and director.

Tickets are available from: <https://walsall.lightcinemas.co.uk/elvis-68-comeback-special-50th-anniversary>

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Pub bosses fined over illegal Sky coverage

THREE pub bosses have been ordered to pay more than £320,000 for showing Sky Sports illegally.

Action was taken against the Pheasant Inn in Wolverhampton, the Prince of Wales in Stafford and the Beaufort Arms in Hamstead, Great Barr, for showing sport without paying for the subscription.

The licensees and company directors responsible for running the pubs were convicted of a total of 64 offences at Birmingham Magistrates Court.

Jonathan Hunt, the designated premises supervisor of The Pheasant, on Wood End Road, Wednesfield, and the Prince of Wales on Weston Road, was found guilty of 19 offences. He failed to appear at the sentencing hearing on Wednesday and was fined £152,000. He was also ordered to pay £35,000 in costs.

Mark Jones, a director of Monk Moor Pubs, the lessees for all three premises at the time of offences, was found guilty of 19 offences. He also failed to appear and was fined £114,000 and ordered to pay £25,000 costs.

Robert Stevens, a director of Monk Moor Pubs, was convicted of one offence and was fined £950.

Carol Keenan, the designated premises supervisor of the Beaufort Arms, on Old Walsall Road, pleaded guilty to seven offences. She was handed a 12-month conditional discharge.

Extended hours for tips backed

PLANS to open Walsall tips seven days a week have been welcomed by a senior councillor. Opening hours at tips in Bloxwich and Aldridge are set to be extended in a bid to combat fly-tipping.

The move has been backed by Darlaston councillor Doug James. He said: "I am delighted to support the extended hours being costed by the current administration at Walsall Council. Our street cleaning and effective response to fly-tipping must improve.

"We need everyone's support in tackling litter and fly-tipping. We need a new approach to recycling we need cleaner town centres but most of all we need people to look after our environments."

Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning will be held to raise money for Cancer Research UK. It will take place from 8.30am until 4.30pm on September 21 at Event Hire Walsall in Bloxwich Lane. There will be a buffet and refreshments.

Thousands use cancer hub in its first year



Cutting a cake to mark the Hub's first year

A HUB which supports people battling cancer has been used by almost 2,000 people in its first year.

Macmillan's cancer information and support hub at Walsall Manor Healthcare Trust has celebrated its first birthday.

Since opening in June last year, 1,869 people have accessed the state-of-the-art service and the team answered 1,262 enquiries from people living with cancer, carers, loved ones and even health and social care professionals.

According to research conducted

by Macmillan, 87 per cent of people affected by cancer want to know more about their disease, and 50 per cent of cancer patients forget most of the information given to them within minutes of their consultation.

This is the reason why Macmillan Cancer Support put forward over £170,000 to fund the Macmillan Information and Support Hub.

The service provides vital information and support to people living with cancer, their carers or their loved ones.

People can access a range of reli-

able cancer information, including information on financial support available in the local area, how best to manage diet and fatigue, and how to manage the effects of cancer treatment.

The hub is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 4pm. You can drop in without an appointment and you do not need a professional referral.

To find out more about the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Hub, call 01922 721172 ext 7273 or email walsallmacmillan.informationhub@nhs.net.

Biker who hid after he ran over woman jailed

A BANNED driver who mowed down a pensioner and filmed himself speeding along a motorway at up to 140mph has been jailed.

Richard Allen was found by a police sniffer dog hiding in bushes around an hour after he hit the elderly woman at a pedestrian crossing in Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield, last year.

The 38-year-old from Walsall, who was banned from the roads in 2001 for dangerous driving, was said by witnesses to have been speeding at more than 50mph in a 30mph zone on his Honda CBR motorbike when the collision happened.

His victim was thrown into the air and suffered multiple fractures, including a broken hip. Allen glanced back at the woman lying injured in the street but sped away from the crash and dumped his bike at a mechanic's garage near his home in Chantry Avenue, Blakenall.

However, a member of the public noted down the bike's registration and soon after a police sniffer dog tracked him from his home to the dense undergrowth where he was found hiding.

The labourer, who was on his way back from Greggs to the Sutton building site he was working on at the time, denied responsibility and told police the woman had walked out in front of him. But collision investigators spoke to several witnesses who described seeing Allen accelerating into the woman without braking – and after a four-day trial he was found unanimously guilty of causing serious injury through dangerous driving.

A judge at Birmingham Crown Court last week jailed Allen for seven-and-a-half years – including four-and-a-half years for the collision, plus an additional year for each of the three other dangerous driving incidents shown on his phone. West Midlands Police has now released one of the video clips, showing Allen hurtling along the fast lane of the M69 at 140mph in an Audi TT.

At one stage Allen took a drag on a cigarette which meant he had no hands on the wheel despite speeding at twice the motorway limit.

Church backs ringing the changes



Tower captain John Eldin outside St Matthew's Church in Walsall

A CHURCH has joined a national drive to recruit 1,400 bell ringers to commemorate the same number of bell ringers who died during the First World War.

St Matthew's Church in Walsall hopes to encourage people to try bell ringing as part of the project. Ringing Remembers, organised by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers in the hope it will cre-

ate a living legacy for the ringers who died 100 years ago.

Whilst no ringers from the church died, one of their 12 bells commemorates Matthew William Harrison who was a choir singer that died in action in October 1915 when he was 29. His father and uncle rang regularly a mile away at Rushall.

Currently there are about

40,000 ringers in the UK at 5,000 church towers and the project comes as this year marks the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Tower Captain John Eldin said: "St Matthew's has a lovely band of 10 ringers and we would be delighted to double that number."

To sign up, call the church on 01922 626039.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Horsebox breaks down on M-way

A HORSEBOX broke down on the M6, causing disruptions during rush hour traffic.

The broken down vehicle caused traffic to stop during the evening rush hour on Thursday around junction nine southbound, for Wednesday.

The horses on board had to be transferred to another horsebox so they could continue.

Highways England said in a statement: "The vehicle broke down at 15.26 originally but due to rush hour remained in place until the traffic had died down. A rolling road block – where traffic officers slow down traffic – was put in place."

Lottery winners scoop £1k each

EIGHT Burntwood residents are celebrating after scooping up a cash prize with the People's Postcode Lottery. Seven of the Birch Avenue residents will see their bank accounts boosted by £1,000 each, while an eighth has trebled their money to £3,000 thanks to playing with three tickets.

The neighbours netted the cash when their postcode, WS7 4TH, was drawn as the Daily Prize winner.

A minimum of 32 per cent of ticket sales goes directly to charities. For more information visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk.

Men use knives in robbery at Tesco

KNIFE-WIELDING thugs robbed a Tesco Express store.

Two offenders with knives went into the shop in Birmingham Road, Shensstone, at around 7am last Wednesday and forced a lone member of staff to open one of the tills. They left with cash and cigarettes before running in the direction of Park Lane or Churchill Road. Both were described as very slim, around 5ft 5-6ins, dressed all in black, wearing face masks and gloves.

Any witnesses or anyone with CCTV footage are asked to call 101 and quote incident number 99 of July 18.

Homeowner foils raid after break-in

THIEVES tried to break into a house in the middle of the night.

The property in Norman Road, Walsall, was burgled at 3am on Sunday.

The offenders attempted to force open two doors unsuccessfully before breaking the lock on a third door at the back of the house. This disturbed the homeowner and the raiders made off without getting in to the house.

Call the police quoting 20WS/161823J/18 if you can help.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



New-style lessons that may not add up

THE bold new future of British education. New government guidelines mean that from 2020, infant-school pupils will be taught about responsible use of social media, transgender issues, and the importance of getting exercise.

The only problem is, when it comes to those boring, old-fashioned fuddy-duddy subjects, you know, reading, writing and arithmetic, our schools lag way behind those of countries such as Singapore and China. Maybe somewhere, in the very crowded curriculum, is there any chance of fitting a bit of this stuff in?

FASHION brand Burberry has admitted to burning £28 million worth of excess stock every year, to stop it being sold to the "wrong people". Very public spirited. And talk of shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted.

ACROSS the West Midlands crime is on the rise. Big jumps in violence, sex offences and robberies. Nearly 3,000 offences involving knife crime in the past 12 months alone. Think about that for one minute – on average, in the West Midlands, there is a crime involving a blade every three hours.

Police and crime commissioner David Jamieson says more resources are needed. Of course he does. And perhaps people would be willing to pay a little more in tax if they believed it meant more thieves, robbers and hoodlums being put away.

But here's another statistic. Last year West Midlands Police dispatched blue-light emergency response vehicles to 94 reports of so-called hate crimes. Just 24 of these reports led to an arrest. In 20 of these call-outs, the alleged victim didn't want the police there.

Now, I'm sure many of those cases were genuine emergencies, where people were in real danger. In those cases it is right and proper that the police act swiftly and that the assailants face the full force of the law.

However, the fact that nearly a quarter of alleged victims didn't understand why the Old Bill were called in the first place suggests that sometimes there might have been an over-reaction.

Contrast this to the case of the baby abducted in the car-jacking last week, when police took 15 minutes to respond. The problem is that too often the authorities appear more concerned with people's attitudes and motives than what they have actually done. Wolf-whistling seems to be taken more seriously than burglary.

What will Sir Cliff do with his cash? A summer holiday?



Sir Cliff's wrangle with the Beeb... another addition to TV licence costing?



Trump and Putin – but Donald's paltry £3.1bn is petty cash compared to Vlad's



Corbyn's poetic platitudes on hatred, but what about antisemitism? Sorry Jezza? Speak up...

President's billions Trumped by Putin

I AM grateful to the reader who suggests a simple way to break the deadlock over Brexit. Penalties

UP pops a nasty little email from TV Licensing headed: "You've just days left to renew your TV licence." This is the first alert, not the final warning, so why the threatening tone? Why do they make it sound like we've done something wrong? If they think "just days" is cutting it a bit fine, then why not give us more warning? TV Licensing has always struck me as a bunch of bullies and they don't try to make any friends. The sooner the whole iniquitous and outdated TV licence is scrapped, the better.

AND how many of us will be forking out the licence fee purely to pay the BBC's damages to Cliff Richard?

YOU may recall I wrote some time ago about our local council erecting, at great expense, an anti-caravan gate at the local park so immense and so strong that it would probably stop a Challenger tank. A couple of days ago ten caravans quietly set up camp in the park. The travellers had totally ignored the shiny, formidable front gate and slipped in through the rickety old back gate. Who'd have thought it?

MEANWHILE, despite all those dire warnings that the stern new MoT test would take thousands of old bangers off the road, my ancient diesel has sailed through. I am now thinking of changing cars. It's a choice between poisoning 50,000 people a year (diesel) or ratcheting up

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



global warming (petrol). There is only one way to decide. Penalties.

I WROTE recently about the prospect of a second referendum on Scottish independence. The land border between England and Scotland is just over 100 miles long while the problematical border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, which you'd think would be shorter, is three times as long. Even so, 100 miles is quite enough to cause problems and I can't recall hearing Scotland's plan for dealing with them. How on earth could they stop all those starving, envious, raggedy-trousered, post-Brexit Sassenachs from streaming northward to the sunlit uplands of Free Caledonia?

FINGER trouble. "Sunlit uplands" almost appeared as "unlit suplands." Come to think of it...

WHY did Putin look so superior and the "miss-speaking" Trump seem so cowed and confused at Helsinki? Leaving aside the rumour that the Kremlin has blackmail-grade material on the US president, consider the money. Money defines Donald Trump. He lives and breathes the stuff. The reason he treats European politicians with contempt may be that he knows he is

richer than all of them combined. And then suddenly he is confronted by Vladimir Putin who is not only smarter, harder, fitter and infinitely more experienced in global politics but richer than him. Nobody knows how wealthy Putin is but by some estimates he is the richest man in the world. The Russian president could buy and sell Trump, and clearly unnerves him. Their meeting was like an eager but baffled old dog trying to make friends with a young, bored and extremely dangerous cheetah.

A READER admits he's puzzled by the seasons in Poldark (BBC1). One moment they're picking apples, the next it's summer flowers. He says: "Time does seem to be going backwards. When do the dead characters come back to life?" It is strange how film makers muck about with the seasons. In that fine 2007 movie Atonement, British soldiers are seen making their way towards the 1940 Dunkirk evacuation while walking through fields of stubble and picking apples from the trees. In May?

MY car hunt goes on. In the past I have found that the car that's right for you will speak to you. A few days ago in a showroom a gleaming white Audi convertible spoke to me very seductively but unfortunately Mrs Rhodes overheard it.

"WHEN we divide ourselves by xenophobia... when we divide ourselves by hatred, at the end of the day we all lose," declares Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party which, 70 years after the Holocaust, still cannot agree on a definition of antisemitism.

TALKING POINT



Crime: All we really want is to feel safe

A YOUNG man I know was recently attacked by youths who were drinking outside a town centre pub, he having seemingly done nothing other than attract their attention by wearing his shop uniform.

The victim and a colleague were repeatedly punched and his car damaged. He got away and went to Cannock police station while they returned to their drinking. Any hopes he had of police swooping on the thugs were dashed when told there was no-one available to deal with him and could he return on Monday – this was Thursday evening.

He did return and make a statement but heard nothing. Is it too much of a leap to think these yobs will now be feeling a little invincible having gotten away with this brazen attack and do it again?

Sadly this is not an unusual anecdote in Staffordshire or the West Midlands. Newspapers and social media are filled with similar tales such as businessmen watching helpless as burglars ransack their premises, closed police stations and reported crimes not being investigated.

Many crimes, it seems, go unreported. Anti-social behaviour, vandalism, even assaults aren't reported because "the police won't be interested", we hear people say. The latest crime figures are depressing. Possession of weapons offences rose from 1,207 to 1,857 over the last five years in the West Midlands, from 313 to 679 in Staffordshire. Public order offences up from 5,368 to 11,579 in the West Midlands and from 1,813 to 4,381 in Staffordshire, according to the Office of National Statistics.

Half of investigations into recorded crime in this country are closed without a suspect being identified – HALF!

There will be mitigation of damage being collected differently, certain crimes more commonly reported now and some 'success' stories. But we don't need these statistics. We are too aware of increasing violence, anti-social behaviour, friends being robbed or burgled. These figures just confirm our worst fears and we are afraid. I'm cautious about where I park my car, whether my house is secure, about walking alone, about thieves or fraudsters targeting my elderly relatives.

But mostly I worry every time my children leave the house as I'm sure does every single parent as we witness increasing violence in the region robbing mothers of their loved ones. I'm tired of being told 'there is not enough money'. Keeping people safe, keeping police stations open and bobbies on the beat, surely these are priorities for any government.

DIANE DAVIES

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Centre will be devastated by M&S closure

THE closure of M&S in Walsall will leave the high street devastated and that isn't good. Plus the fact of all the job losses that go with a store closure. Is this going to cause a rise in unemployment in the town I wonder?

We have already seen the closure of quite a few outlets in Walsall over the years including two local newspapers. It started when HMV closed its doors a few years back, recently Pound World closed its doors and who can forget the end of BHS? How many more iconic names are going to be but just mem-

ories in this once great town of ours? Walsall is going to become a ghost town. The 1000-year-old market is certainly a shadow of what it was and I now use Blomwich market instead. Why doesn't the council encourage farmers' markets or even evening markets?

Surely our ruling elite in the Borough like our MPs, councillors, business groups have an opinion on all this? Surely there are ordinary people aka campaigners out there protesting against all this? Are there, because I can't hear anybody? The apathy in this

town against or for anything is deafening, sadly. On the other hand our ruling elite and business groups are great at 'smoke and mirrors' chat, they are great at talking up regeneration in this town, making out Walsall to be a 'hip place to be', whilst in reality Rome is burning. On Sunday I came through the centre to witness a vandalised phone booth with glass everywhere, it really doesn't enhance the image of Walsall one jot!

IAN PAYNE
Walsall

Truthful Boris hits right note

BORIS Johnson wrote in his resignation letter (hoo-rah) that the Brexit dream is dying.

For once he hit the nail on the head because that is all Brexit has ever been – a dream.

It has never been a well thought-out, practical plan. Every hard-headed analysis has shown that it will leave this country and its people worse off.

Rich Brexiters including Boris Johnson have brainwashed the ordinary men and women in this country into believing that Brexit is good for us.

It is not; it will leave us poorer and less happy. It is time to ditch it as Theresa May should have ditched Boris. Still, better late than never.

ROGER WATTS
Walsall

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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No nearer to reply on subject of dementia

THANK you again for putting my letter in the Chronicle on March 15 about still waiting for a response from Eddie Hughes MP over dementia care. It is now July, and I am still waiting for replies to my letters about people with dementia and people having to go into care homes.

Remember, they have lost almost everything. Does Mr Hughes not want to consider the problems of people with dementia and the effect that has on their carers etc? Is that why I get no response? Like I said in my last letter no-one knows what is coming in our lives, only god knows that.

I have reminded the Prime Minister and the Government that any government which does not keep its word, the people will have no hope in them and they won't vote for them.

I can understand that when we send letters to our MP and do not get any replies.

MR S PARTRIDGE
Bloxwich

Duplicity of EU chiefs over laws

THERE was a statement made on TV a couple of days ago to the effect that extra holiday protection was being brought in by the EU which would bring more protection for people in the UK.

It would be implemented immediately, as simple as that, and no mention of it has been mentioned since.

Are they desperate to keep us in the EU or what? It is like dangling a carrot in front of a donkey.

We know they want to hang on to the cash sucking pig that is the UK for as long as possible for the millions of pounds we pay to them daily.

But isn't it wonderful how they can pass a new law with immediate effect if it suits them or drag their feet by putting a law through all sorts of discussions if it isn't what they want.

It's just pathetic.
PAULINE POOLE
Willenhall

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Dealership in turmoil after seven cars stolen

A CAR dealership was left in turmoil when the keys to its entire stock of vehicle were taken in an early morning raid – along with seven vehicles.

Motorcity in Walsall Wood also had the logbooks and service history records to its 50 cars taken in the audacious break-in last Monday morning.

By Alex Ross

Seven vehicles were stolen, although four have now been returned. The keys to all the dealership's stock have also since been recovered, but the dealership is appealing for help to find the missing documentation.

It is also on the look-out for the three outstanding vehicles – a blue Ford Transit with registration plate BL15 TYS, a blue Mini Cooper with plate FV13 ZGZ and black Astra GTC with plate FV62 DHY.

The combined cost of the three vehicles is £37,000.

Director Martin Brady, said the business was open as usual despite the problems faced since the break-in. We were extremely fortunate for the good work of police in getting the keys back – we could have

been left bankrupt without them," he said.

Mr Brady believes the documentation could have been emptied into a plastic filer tray.

The raiders broke into the dealership office on site and removed seven vehicles over the next six hours. Mr Brady said, out of the four vehicles returned, two were stopped in a police pursuit, another two discovered in a car park.

A 33-year-old man from Oldbury was charged with a theft of a car, driving with no insurance and two counts of burglary on Monday. He denied all four charges at Dudley Magistrates Court on Tuesday. A trial will take place at Wolverhampton Crown Court next month.

May, 13, is crowned queen of the galaxy



May Perry, the Junior Miss Galaxy UK title holder

A TEENAGER from Walsall has been crowned an international beauty queen at the age of just 13.

May Perry, from Walsall, has spent a week in Orlando for the international final of the Galaxy Pageants – where she won the Junior Miss Galaxy UK crown.

After spending the week across the pond, she took to the international stage to compete against girls from across the globe to be judged as the best and win the title.

May also impressed the judges with her bubbly personality and won the best in interview award as well as the gongs for both best in fashion and evening wear.

In the lead up to the international final, she made public appearances all over the UK and will continue to do so as Junior Miss Galaxy now that she has brought the title home.



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MP helps to kick off Khalsa's artificial pitch

A WALSALL MP was one of the dignitaries on hand to officially open an all-weather pitch at a Willenhall football team.

Eddie Hughes, MP for Walsall North was on hand to open a state-of-the-art third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) for Sporting Khalsa Community Facilities Ltd.

Their new facility, at the Aspray Arena was made possible thanks to investment from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund – delivered by the Football Foundation.

Staffordshire and Birmingham FA Chief Executives Adam Evans and Kevin Shoemake also attended the ceremony, which took place during a pre-season friendly between the site's main user, Step 5 club Sporting Khalsa FC, and Hereford FC.

They were able to take advantage of the brand new pitch, which has been upgraded from the grass stadia pitch. The original surface was prone to 'cutting up' during matches.

Sporting Khalsa Community Facilities Ltd., which was set up by a group of friends at a local Sikh temple in 1991, received the investment to help replace the existing pitch with the new 3G AGP. They have also been able to perform other works, such as improving the existing floodlights.

The new facility provides a more reliable, consistent surface during training and matches, and can be used all-year-round. The club was awarded a £579,564 grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund towards the project. They also received £75,000 from Sport England.

Across users, it is hoped that the upgraded surface will support the creation of 42 new teams – a number of which would be within Sporting Khalsa FC. The club hope to grow from their current 17 teams to a total of 24, with new sides in a range of age groups. This will help the club to provide a complete player pathway, for both male and female members.



Aspray 24 Chairman Patrick Laight (centre), unveils the new facility alongside Eddie Hughes MP (left), Staffordshire FA Chief Executive Adam Evans (centre left), Birmingham FA Chief Executive Kevin Shoemake (centre right) and Sporting Khalsa FC Chairman Rajinder Gill (right)

PCC role to come under mayoral remit by 2020

THE office of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner is in line to be scrapped under plans signed off by council leaders at a heated meeting.

Tory Mayor Andy Street wants the elected position, currently held by Labour's David Jamieson, to come under the mayoral remit from May 2020. It comes after council leaders on the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) agreed to push through a move to ditch the role, which was outlined in the West Midlands second devolution deal.

Initially the WMCA board was di-

vided over party lines on the issue, with Tory council leaders Mike Bird and Patrick Harley backing them.

On behalf of the Commissioner's office, Assistant PCC Councillor Lynnette Kelly objected to the management of the process, saying the benefits of combining the two roles had not been made clear.

However, following an adjournment by Wolverhampton Council leader Roger Lawrence, an agreement was finally reached to move towards incorporating the PCC role within the duties of the Mayor.

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Wonderful creations to honour lost loved ones

MORE and more bereaved families in the Midlands are turning to the artistic skills of florists to represent their lost loved ones at funerals.

From Peppa Pig to a giant tea cup, research shows the departed are being remembered with more unique floral tributes.

Central England Co-operative published the research which is based on feedback from expert florist from ten of their floral shops in the region, including Great Barr.

They found traditional funeral floral arrangements such as 'mum' and 'dad' are replaced with requests for a life-sized version of a family dog, a replica of Peppa Pig, a 2ft high teacup, and a camera for a photographer. The last 12 months has also seen a replica of tomato sauce requested, a church, and a wreath made of vegetables.

Teddy bears, guitars, frogs, dancing shoes, a horse's head, a tank and a caravan were among the other creations put together by the Central England Co-op Floral team.

There is a shift towards personalisation that has coincided with a notable rise in people opting to buy pre-paid funeral plans to ensure that funeral costs do not fall on their family, or to fill out a free funeral wishes form to ensure they get the tailored send-off that they want.

Gail Simmonds, a florist for Central England Co-op, said: "We pride ourselves on always trying to accommodate what people want - no matter what it is."

"People often come in with a set idea or photo and then it is up to me and my team to see if we can make that happen. Aside from normal funeral arrangements, we get asked to



A beloved sheepdog recreated



The unmistakable Peppa Pig



A camera wreath for an enthusiast



One of the more intricate - a church

do a wide variety of things, ranging from a dog in a kennel to a three foot bottle of tomato ketchup.

"We really enjoy what we do and love to be able to come up with something wonderful to help honour the life of a loved one."

Central England Co-op has florists in Stafford, Burton, Chesterfield,

Derby, Droitwich, Great Barr, Kettering, Kingstanding, Leicester, and Birmingham. As well as providing tributes to loved ones, they also specialise in weddings, christenings, birthdays and a wide variety of other special occasions. People can find out more about our floral offering by visiting www.centralengland.coop/florists

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Pub team raises glass to success



Winners: From left, Angela Dennis, Mike Glover-Johnson and Lee Glover-Johnson from The Crown



Daniel and Chelsie Condon

A PUB is raising a glass to success after being named the Express & Star's Most Popular Pub of the Year for the Walsall area.

Customers voted for The Crown, Anchor Road, Aldridge.

The competition is now in its third year and customers collected tokens in The Chronicle's sister publication, The Express & Star and placed their vote on who they wanted to win the award.

The pub's general manager Mike Glover-Johnson said: "It means a lot to myself and the team. We've done a big project on listening to what the community wants and it shows we're on the way to achieving that. It's recognition for a lot of hard work."

"It's not about money, it's about the

pub being used by the community for something positive.

"We've raised over £2,500 for local charities. We do charity car washes, regular events for charities, and tribute nights – a variety of things."

The Shire Oak, Lichfield Road, Walsall, came in second with the Horse and Jockey, Walsall Road, finishing third.

Daniel Condon, publican at The Shire Oak for almost two years, said: "We're happy we've done brilliantly."

"It's down to hard work and a good team. It's a local family pub and we're all working hard as a team."

Gareth Fleet, the landlord of The Horse and Jockey, said: "We're very grateful to the customers. We're pretty proud. It's stuff like this that makes all the hard work worth it."



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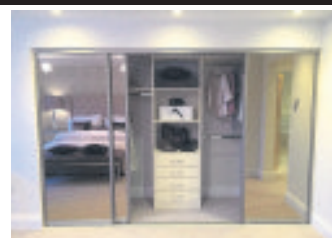
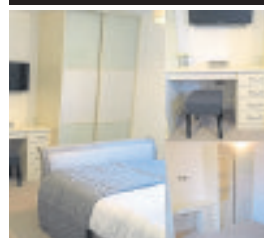
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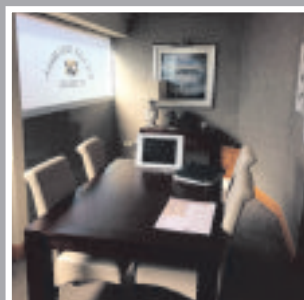
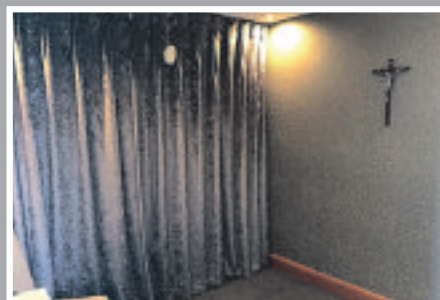
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'Ghost' of fallen hero appears in cathedral



The ghostly outline of a First World War soldier
A GHOSTLY silhouette of a First World War soldier has been put in place at Lichfield Cathedral.
The Tommy, which is six feet tall and made from aluminium, is part of There But Not There – a project launched to mark 100 years since the end of the Great War.
The project aims to commemorate, educate and heal – the three aims of the charity Remembered.
It commemorates those who died in the First World War through installations of silhouettes wherever there is a Roll of Honour. It sets out to educate all generations, particularly today's younger generation and helps veterans who are suffering from the mental and physical wounds by raising substantial funds through sales of the Tommies.

Chief calls to highlight work done by WMCA

NOBODY knows what the West Midlands Combined Authority is, according to a new boss appointed at the organisation.
Councillor Mike Bird, leader of Walsall Council and the WMCA's portfolio holder for housing and land delivery, led his first meeting of the board last Monday. Among the items on the agenda were social housing.
Other matters up for discussion included the latest update to the Spatial Investment and Delivery Plan, as well as the potential of abandoned shops to ease housing pressures.
However, making an overall point toward the end of the meeting, Councillor Bird said that people need to know what the WMCA is before they can really start working towards their goal of 215,000 houses by 2031.
"What I want to see is pace. I want to see pace with bulk. And at the end of the day in two months' time we can have our meeting and say 'right, since we last met we've done this, this, this and this', and get some good news out there."
"And also, I think it's important that the branding is done properly. That if we get a site where the combined authority have assisted, we need to have a sign that says 'in conjunction with the combined authority'.

By Richard Guttridge

Because who knows who the combined authority are, apart from the people sitting around here? Nobody. Nobody.
"We did this with City Challenge, we've done this with other economical developments, and we need to make sure that we're promoting our cause. Somebody will then knock on our door, a developer, and say 'oh, hang on a minute, if they can do that then we might be able to get some help'.
"Then all of a sudden it's not just one-way traffic, we can actually do something from them coming to us, rather than us just going to them." The West Midlands Combined Authority formed in 2016 and is made up of seven West Midlands councils. It has powers in a range of areas including transport, economic development and regeneration.

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Sea rescue bid grandfather receives bravery award

A HEROIC grandfather who died attempting to rescue two teenage girls from the sea has been given a posthumous award recognising his courageous actions.

Selfless Richard Guest, from Walsall, who rushed into the water to help the youngsters who had got into trouble, has been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

The 74-year-old was walking his dog with his wife on the beach at Tywyn, North Wales, when he heard the teenagers screaming for help.

With another passer-by, Stephen Adams, he managed to save one of the girls - but got into difficulty himself when he returned to the water in search of the second, who, unbeknown to him, had managed to reach the shore.

Arms

Former bank manager Mr Guest, who was known as Dick, was about 40 yards out from the shore and was seen holding one of the girls up out of the water in his arms by the time Aberdovey coastguard arrived and managed to save her, his family later revealed.

But after his life-saving efforts he was unable to get himself back to dry land.

Mr Adams discovered him face down in the water.

He was recovered unconscious from the sea by RNLI crews and airlifted to hospital in Aberystwyth where he was later pronounced dead.

The grandfather of four's actions were hailed following his tragic death in July 2015 and he has now been handed the prestigious Queen's Gallantry Medal, along with Mr Adams, from Oswestry.

The committee in charge of deciding the awards commended both men's efforts.

They said: "Both men demon-



Richard Guest, who died after trying to rescue two teenage girls from the sea at Tywyn in North Wales

strated unselfish courage. Neither man knew the two girls yet were willing to risk their own lives to ensure the safety of two strangers."

The family of Mr Guest issued a statement saying: "The Guest family are honoured to receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal in Richard's name."

"This is to recognise his and Stephen Adams' bravery in rescuing two teenage girls from drowning."

Mr Adams paid tribute to Mr Guest on receiving the award.

He said: "I am humbled and honoured to receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal."

"I would like to take this moment

as an opportunity to remember that Mr Guest lost his life trying to help others and to reflect on how merciful the sea can be."

Mr Guest had been enjoying a weekend break away with his 71-year-old wife when tragedy struck.

His daughter, Ceri Donovan, said at the time: "He was an active man who loved the outdoors, and was at happiest in Tywyn with his family."

"We cannot imagine life without him. He was loved by so many people."

"He was a strong swimmer and was used to swimming on that particular part of the beach."

"It was just like him to do something so selfless and brave."

"At the end of the day, he was a family man."

"He was a great father and a much-loved grandfather. We will miss him terribly."

Son Gareth Guest remarked that his father was 'that sort of person'.

Dozens of messages were posted on social media following Mr Guest's tragic death commending him for his courageous life-saving efforts.

The Queen's Gallantry Medal is one of the country's highest and awards 'exemplary acts of bravery'.

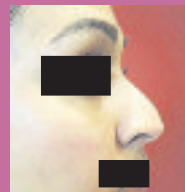


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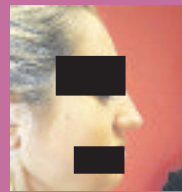
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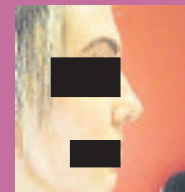
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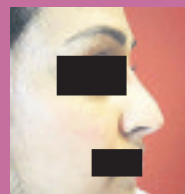
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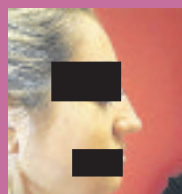
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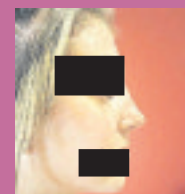
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School goes from strength to strength

Commercial feature

Providing an education with a difference in Wolverhampton, West Midlands UTC has been going from strength to strength since opening in 2016.

The school's outstanding and innovative approach is unique, combining traditional academic qualifications with technical qualifications which have a core focus on design, innovation, architecture and construction.

Last month's Ofsted inspection rated the UTC as 'Good' with 'Outstanding' features. Students receive first class teaching with unparalleled industry opportunities thanks to excellent employer links.

With support from the University of Wolverhampton, students are equipped for life beyond the classroom, developing advanced skills for future success.

Facilities

The university is also working with the UTC to offer a Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity making best use of their amazing facilities.

In addition to this, the UTC works in collaboration with the prestigious Thomas Telford School to maintain the highest standards in Teaching and Learning.

All students go on to further or higher education, work or apprenticeships – an area where the school exceeds the national average.

A number of leavers have recently secured apprenticeship positions with Balfour Beatty Vinci, RMD Kwikform and Pasquil, to name but a few.

The Employer Project experiences, specialist curriculum and work experience all combined to help secure these coveted roles, setting them up for excellent professional careers. The



West Midlands UTC Principal Av Gill and students celebrate the 'Good' Ofsted rating received after the inspection that took place last month

professional standards that the school instills help set students up for a successful future.

The UTC are very proud of the positive learning environment they have created; based in an outstanding new building at the Springfield Campus, equipped with the very latest facilities, where young people grow in confidence and thrive.

Many have been shortlisted for awards such as Wolverhampton's Young Citizen of the Year and even won competitions including the DIGI's

and the Global Challenge Competition.

The young people are a credit to the school.

If you are looking for a school which provides an academic pathway alongside the opportunity to develop real employability skills then the West Midlands UTC is the ideal choice. Places are available for Year 10 and sixth form starters to join the school in September.

The UTC are happy to welcome you and your family to visit and find out more over the summer break. Chair of Governors Kerrie Jones

said: "As Chair of Governors, I am delighted with the Ofsted judgement the UTC has received of 'Good' with 'Outstanding' elements which I believe is due to the exceptional teamwork of the principal and staff in a short period of time.

"I would also like to thank our employer partners for their tremendous support, which was also recognised by Ofsted, ensuring that the UTC is extremely well integrated into its locale and the construction and built

environment sector." Principal Av Gill added: "I am proud that the UTC has been recognised as a 'Good' school and 'Outstanding' for the Personal Development and Welfare of our young people.

"This judgement is a testament to the hard work of both staff and students.

"Inspectors recognised many positive attributes including the fantastic partnership with employers which gives our students the edge when it comes to future employability."



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18 Fans let down by Gazza walkout

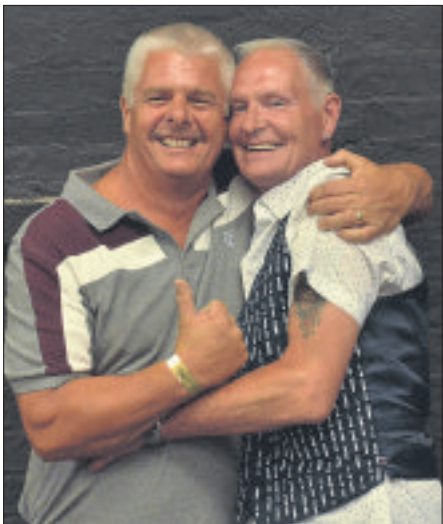
ENGLAND legend Paul Gascoigne has vowed to host a free show for disappointed fans who were let down after he walked out of an event in Wolverhampton.

Hundreds of fans packed into the Starworks Warehouse on Friday night when the ex-midfielder refused to appear on stage in a dispute over his fee.

Tweets posted by the star after the event was cancelled claimed the venue and booking company had failed to pay him. Gazza has said he would offer another free event for anyone who was 'let down' by the show.

In a series of Twitter posts, in which he claimed to be in tears, he said: "I'm gutted about tonight's event so me [my agent] Shane Whitfield will host a free event for all who attended. I personally apologise to all the people that attended."

A spokesman for Starworks said Gazza's fee had been paid.



A fan with Gazza before he left the Wolverhampton event

Mayor's vow over rail station completion

WEST Midlands Mayor Andy Street says it is 'unthinkable' that an upgrade to a key railway station will not be finished in time for the Commonwealth Games.

It was announced at a meeting of the Transport Delivery Committee last week that the Perry Barr project was one of the combined authority's biggest transport concerns.

Using a traffic light-style system whereby green indicates everything is going well and red indicates serious problems, a progress report gave Perry Barr station an amber/red status.

Project delivery manager Alison Peckmore even suggested that the upgrades may be done in two parts, with



West Midlands Mayor Andy Street

the 'nice to haves', completed after the Commonwealth Games, which Birmingham will be hosting in 2022.

However, the mayor says now that the potential issues have been identi-

fied, all efforts will be put into making sure that the station is ready for when the Games are staged in four years' time.

"The good thing about this RAG - red, amber, green - system that we have is it does help us to identify potential issues ahead of time, allowing us to tackle them early," Mr Street said.

Estimated

"But the station at Perry Barr was part of the bid for the Commonwealth Games, meaning it's one of the reasons we were chosen in the first place. So, as I say, it's unthinkable that the station wouldn't be finished in time."

The current estimated completion date for the station is May 1, 2022, with the games scheduled to begin under two months later, on July 27.

Funding for police falls by millions

GOVERNMENT funding for the region's police forces has dropped by millions in the last three years, leaving taxpayers to pick up bill.

The Home Office figures show that Government funding for the West Midlands and Staffordshire forces dropped by two per cent between their budgets for 2015-16 and 2018-19.

Over the same period, the amount of funding received through council tax increased by 28 per cent for WMP and 14 per cent for Staffordshire.

In the West Midlands last year £444 million of funding came from the Government, and £90 million from the council tax precept.

For Staffordshire the figures were £117m and £66m respectively.



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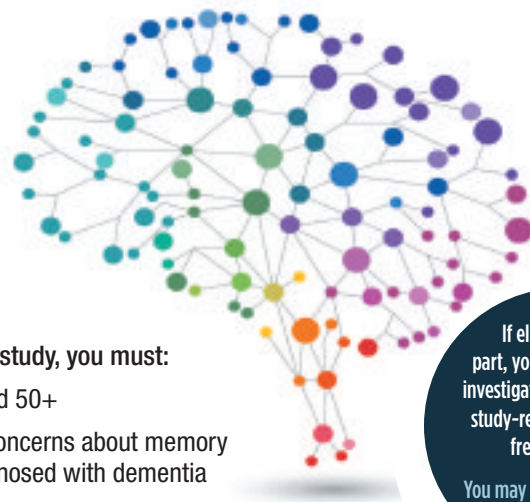


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Saddle makers on show for Princess during visit

SADDLE makers on the shop floor at a Walsall factory had the chance to share their craft with the Princess Royal during a visit to the town.

Princess Anne visited Albion England's head office and factory in her capacity as Perpetual Master of the Worshipful Company of Saddlers.

Highlighting the growing innovation in the design and manufacture of saddlery and leather goods, Princess Anne was given a guided tour of the factory by the company's founders Paul and Sherry Belton.

It came during a day that saw the Princess Royal speak at a reception to champion British saddlery at The Hub, at Walsall College's Wisemore Campus.

Sherry Belton, managing director of Albion England, said: "It was an immense pleasure to welcome The Princess Royal to Albion England."

Diversified

"We thoroughly enjoyed showcasing our work here in Walsall and are very proud of the contribution Albion England has made over the years to the area's thriving saddlery and leather goods market."

"The business has diversified beyond all belief since it began and continues to be a glowing example of the prosperity within the equine industry and Walsall's leather skills offering."

"It was a joy to hear The Princess Royal's contributions and an honour to be selected as one of the hosts within this visit."

Albion England has been a stalwart of the Walsall saddlery scene since 1985.

It employs 75 craftsmen and women producing over 100 British-made saddles a week and supplying the very best of the equine world, including riders such as Laura Tomlinson, William Fox Pitt and Emile Faurie, who proudly compete from the seat of an Albion saddle.



Albion England saddler Nick Aldridge shares his craft with the Princess



Annie Belton-Green presents Albion England gifts to The Princess Royal

During her visit to Walsall Princess Anne said: "From what I have seen today, it seems to me that linking experience and long tested traditional

methods with those things learnt from science and performance will encourage innovation, and ensure that British saddle manufacturers remains the benchmark for others to try and emulate across the world."

"I have seen much evidence from all those that I have met today that this is and will remain the case, and I congratulate you all in your endeavours."

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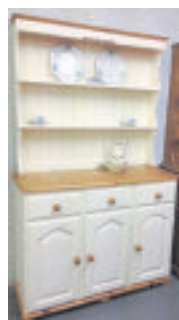
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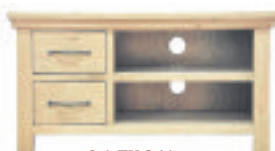
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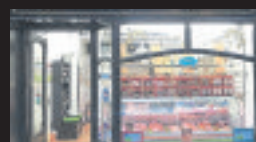


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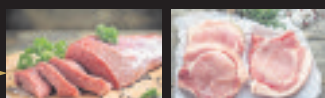
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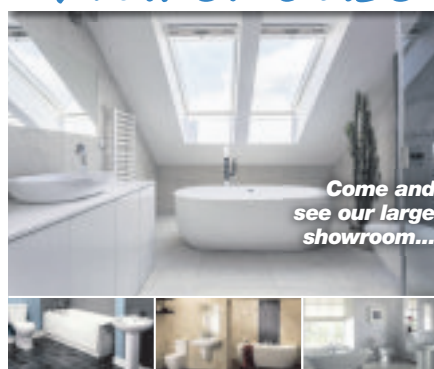
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Stars aligning for the Lunar Festival

Goldfrapp, The Strangers and Basement Jaxx will be among the star attractions when revellers gather at Tanworth In Arden for this weekend's Lunar Festival. The event kicks off today (Thursday) and will continue tomorrow and on Saturday and Sunday.

The headliners will be joined by Amadou and Mariam, Songhoy Blues, The Go! Team, Crazy P, Hookworm, A Guy Called Gerald, Jane Weaver, Boy Azoog, The Unthanks, Blackash, Trojan Sound System, Dam Suzuki, The Pretty Things and Henge.

Mark Radcliffe's Galleon Blast will also feature as will former World Champion snooker star Steve Davis, who reinvented himself as a DJ.

Davis was the most successful professional snooker player of the 1980s, winning a total of 28 major ranking events including six World Championships. In recent years his involvement in snooker has been limited mainly to TV punditry, which has given him far more time to indulge in his musical hobby, namely collecting left-field music from around the globe and presenting a weekly radio show on PhoenixFM and monthly residency on NTS Radio with Kavus Torabi.

ELECTRONICA

His favourite band is Magma and it was well documented that at the end of the 80s he brought them to London for a series of shows. His musical tastes range from quality 70s prog, Canterbury and Zeuhl through to modern day Rock in Opposition and Avant-Progressive and further into left-field electronica and IDM.

A spokesman for the event says fans are in for an exceptional weekend at Lunar. "Above all else Lunar is a music festival and those that have been before will know our line-up is well crafted and eclectic with absolutely no space fillers; 2018 will be no different, expect to see the best in Psychedelia, Electronica, Americana, World/Roots and all sorts of genre-defying but fundamentally great music.

"After the live music finishes on the Lunar Stage, you have a rich choice of high-calibre DJs and audio-visual treats to keep you entertained into the small hours.

"We will also have a number of talks and debates at the festival, aimed at providing different perspectives on life in modern Britain. Topics will include health, the

environment, literature, UK culture and more."

Goldfrapp will be among the most popular bands at this weekend's event, with Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory playing a greatest hits set. They released their seventh album, Silver Eye, last year, which debuted at number six on the UK chart.

"I think writing an album is like being lost in a wood," says Will Gregory. "You're trying to figure out

Basement Jaxx are one of the headline acts at Lunar Festival. Below, Goldfrapp



*After the live music
finishes, you have a
rich choice of high
calibre DJs*

an interesting path. You don't know whether it's going to be a dead end or somewhere interesting and you never know when to stop because around the corner some beautiful vista might open up."

Alison and Will have been finding new paths through the forest since their 2000 debut album Felt Mountain, never going the same way twice. "We've never liked repeating ourselves," says Alison. "Often we react to things we've just done. We like the spontaneity of not knowing. It's only through the process that we start to figure out what it is. The fans who have stuck with us are the ones who embrace that idea and are excited by the thought that they don't know quite what to expect next."

If 2013's Tales of Us, a set of noirish folk fables, roamed the same pastoral landscape as Felt Mountain and Seventh Tree, then Silver Eye (a reference to the moon) belonged to the pulsing, electronic lineage of Black Cherry and Supernature only deeper and darker.

The common thread between these two modes, apart from the consistently exquisite arrangements and Alison's extraordinary voice, was a set of enduring preoccupations, which informed both the lyrics and the visual aesthetic.

"Mysticism, ecstasy, ritual, contemplation, metamorphosis, the elemental," says Alison, who took all of the photographs and creatively directed all artwork visuals. I've realised that there are things I feel passionate about on a deep level and they were in the record."

Silver Eye features dance music, which evokes a pagan ritual rather than a club soundtrack. Cold, metallic electronics with a hot current of blood running through them. Cinematic pop music with a twist. A celebration of the thirst for transformation and intense sensation. A 21st century moonance. It weaves together the two strands of Goldfrapp's music like never before.

The Strangers are perennial favourites and were on the road earlier this year with their Definitive Tour.

Audiences can expect to be swept up high on the wave of The Strangers' powerful sound during what is always an exhilarating live experience; pounding rhythms, soaring melodies, quirky humour and thrillingly daring musicianship will come together again.



Step On with Happy Mondays



Join the 14 hour party people for Shiiine On

Shiine On, a one-day indie rock and dance festival at Birmingham's Genting Arena next month, will feature more than 30 Britpop, 'Madchester' and post-punk acts.

It will be headlined by dance pioneers Orbital. Renowned for their headline slots at Glastonbury, they will perform their full festival show at the arena.

Indie heroes Shed Seven, who are riding high on the success of their recent top 10 album Instant Pleasures, and Happy Mondays also play the main stage. Shaun Ryder will support himself with a Black Grape set earlier in the day. The main stage will also feature performances by previous headliners of the Shiine On Weekender, Embrace, who are celebrating a top five album with Love Is A Basic Need, and Cast.

Also playing the main stage at the September 8 event is Glasvegas while on the Forum Live stage there will be a rare festival performance from Julian Cope.

The support cast includes The Wedding Present, Gang Of Four, A Certain Ratio, The Stairs, The Membranes, Psyence, Deja Vega, Smoove & Turell, Reverend and The Makers, Dreadzone, Bentley Rhythm Ace, Jim Bob, Clint Boon, and young Birmingham band Ivory Wave.

The bands play on five stages from 1 to 11pm and there is a Hacienda party until 3am with Todd Terry, Marshall Jefferson and Jon Dasilva, plus a Northern Soul DJ set from Ocean Colour Scene's Steve Cradock. There is a food village and craft ales. Tickets cost £59.50, see www.shiineon.com/one-day-festival

Matt is aiming to make you move it!



MATT Terry, winner of 2016's The X Factor is announced to play Alex The Lion in Madagascar – The Musical at selected performances at the New Alexandra Theatre this summer.

The new adaptation of the smash DreamWorks animated motion picture is being staged in Birmingham from Tuesday (July 31) until Saturday (August 4). Matt, pictured, will join the cast for the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday performances.

Since winning the The X Factor,

Matt had a top three hit with the Ed Sheeran-penned winner's single When Christmas Comes Around, has released his debut album Trouble with first single from the album, Sucker For You, notching up nearly 60 million streams on Spotify.

Since then Matt featured on Enrique Iglesias's smash single Subeme La Radio alongside Sean Paul.

Matt said: 'I am so excited to be making my acting debut. I can't wait to be playing the lead role of Alex and bringing him to life. Expect incredible costume, set and cast. And the music is immense!'

Alex maybe the king of the urban jungle in New York's Central Park, but he and best friends Marty the zebra, Melman the giraffe and Gloria the hippo, face a challenging time when they escape from blissful captivity with the help of some prodigious penguins, and end up in King Julien's Madagascar.

The new musical features an upbeat score that aims to make you 'Move it, move it'. It is directed by award-winning Kirk Jameson with choreography from Fabian Aloise, design by Tom Rogers and puppet direction from Emma Brunton.

Cinema date with king of the waltz

Superstar violinist André Rieu is coming to a cinema near you when his Maastricht concerts are screened via satellite. The king of the waltz's Amore My Tribute to Love concerts are in André's hometown in the Netherlands, where his Johann Strauss Orchestra will perform. It is screened on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon at the Lighthouse Wolverhampton, plus screenings at Showcase Dudley/W'hampton, Cineworld W'hampton, Light Cinema Walsall and the Odeon Merry Hill.



Wizards go loco for express SVR service

A magical gathering will take place at Severn Valley Railway next month, as it launches its first ever Wizards Express services.

The railway has now added two extra dates to the two already scheduled and has urged those interested to book early to avoid disappointment.

Budding wizards are invited to grab their wands and cloaks to head to the SVR on August 1, 15, 16 and 22 for a magical journey. The services depart from Kidderminster at 11am, 1.40pm and 4.20pm on all four dates. Tickets are £100 for a table of four.

Victoria Carman, marketing and communications manager, said: "This is our first venture into the world of wizardry and we have got a whole cauldron-full of magical fun to be had." To book visit www.svr.co.uk/wizardexpress

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Carry On Forever (ITV, 10.20pm)

Martin Clunes narrates the story of the Carry On series of comedy films, featuring interviews with the stars, rare behind-the-scenes footage and on-set publicity photos. The first episode looks at the origins of the franchise at Pinewood Studios and reveals how producer Peter Rogers and director Gerald Thomas accidentally stumbled on a hit formula. With contributions by Shirley Eaton, Liz Fraser, Rosalind Knight, Bernard Cribbins and Juliet Mills.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Animals Behaving Badly. (R) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? (R) **3.15** Songs of Praise. **3.50** Cycling: RideLondon. Live coverage of the RideLondon-Surrey Classic.

6.30 BBC News.**6.50 Regional Programme.**

7.00 **Countryfile.** The team visits Exmoor, where Matt Baker attends a residential course teaching children outdoor skills and Margherita Taylor goes in search of the UK's most endangered butterfly.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the first of two episodes from the Stormont Parliament Building in Belfast, where items brought in to be valued include diving gear from the Titanic, a first-hand account of Ernest Shackleton's 1914 expedition to the Antarctic, and a walking stick belonging to a far-right propagandist who was executed for treason.

9.00 **Poldark.** Elizabeth obtains a potion to force an early labour in the hope that George's fears that he is not the father will disappear as soon as the child is born. Ross returns to Cornwall in the aftermath of his duel, hoping to make things right with Demelza, but is forced to consider why he chose to accept Adderley's challenge. George returns home to find Morvenna has come to Trenwith in search of Drake, and banishes her from his estate – prompting Elizabeth to take desperate measures that place the life of her child at risk.

10.00 BBC News.**10.20 Regional Programme.**

10.30 **Imagine – Tacita Dean: Looking to See.** Profile of the visual artist, visiting her at her studios in Berlin and Los Angeles as she works on a film project inspired by her sister and the Greek myth of Antigone.

11.40 **Film: Albert Nobbs.** (2011) A woman living in disguise as a man in 19th-century Ireland decides to find a wife after a meeting with a fellow cross-dresser. Drama, with Glenn Close and Mia Wasikowska. **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Cycling: RideLondon. **12.00** Triathlon World Series: Edmonton. **1.30** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Natural World. (R) **4.30** Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix. (R) **5.30** Secrets of Silicon Valley. (R)

6.30 **Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing.** In the final episode, Paul and Bob fish for Pike on the River Test in Hampshire, which may not be the best idea for two men of a certain age with heart problems. In the cottage where the pair are staying, they decide to invite a consultant cardiologist for dinner to talk about their medical past and their future, gaining tips on how to live the most healthy life possible. As the sun sets on the final night of their fishing expedition, Paul and Bob decide to write a eulogy for each on the riverbank. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 **Inside the Factory.** Gregg Wallace explores a Manchester factory that produces 700,000 toilet rolls a day, and Cherry Healey is at Britain's oldest toilet factory, where they turn out 1,000 loos daily. (R)

8.00 **Searching for Shergar.** The story of one of the world's most valuable racehorses, Shergar, which was famously abducted from its stables in 1983, at the height of the Troubles, and never seen again. Thirty five years on, Alison Millar sets out to see if changed times will help her unearth the mystery once and for all.

9.00 **Travels in Trumpland with Ed Balls.** New series. The former MP explores America's Deep South to meet the people who voted Donald Trump into power and discover their motivations for supporting him. In the first episode, he visits a festival celebrating Southern culture in Texas and travels south to the controversial border with Mexico, where he witnesses an illegal immigrant being arrested.

10.00 **Film: Free State of Jones.** (2016) Premiere. American Civil War. Fact-based drama, with Matthew McConaughey and Gugu Mbatha-Raw.

12.15 Idris Elba – King of Speed. (R) **1.15** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Japandemonium. (R) **9.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **10.50** WOS Wrestling. (R) **11.50** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **2.00** The Chase. (R) **3.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of the 21st and final stage of the prestigious race.

6.30 **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.** Paul meets an unusual looking Staffie cross that cannot find an owner, an English bulldog needing surgery to help it breathe and a German shepherd struggling to keep its food down. (R)

7.00 ITV News: Weather.**7.10 Regional Programme: Weather.**

7.15 **Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R)

8.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Sarah Willingham, Shaun Ryder, Michelle Dewberry and Eddie Edwards pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R)

9.00 **Unforgotten.** Pete, Chris, James and Tim are interviewed about the time they spent renting a holiday cottage near where Hayley disappeared, and Jamila needs to know more about Chris's past.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.20 **Carry On Forever.** Martin Clunes narrates the story of the comedy franchise, beginning with a look at its Pinewood Studios origins. (R)

11.20 **Sunday Night at the Palladium.** Rob Brydon introduces music by Neil Diamond, Paloma Faith and Texas, and comedy from Milton Jones and Daniel Sloss, plus the cast of Jersey Boys and more. Last in the series. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.35** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid. (2010) Family comedy, starring Zachary Gordon. **3.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.15** Bang on Budget. **5.20** Homes by the Med. (R)

6.20 Channel 4 News.

6.45 **Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights.** Steve Jones and David Coulthard present action from the Hungarian round in Budapest, where the 12th round of the season took place. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel took the honours here last season, and will have been looking for another victory to aid him in his closely fought title-race with reigning champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes.

9.00 **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred faces a grueling challenge alone as she recalls her life as a mother, and Serena Joy and the Commander deal with the fallout of their actions.

10.05 **The Football Club: Artist in Residence.** Portraitist Tai Schierenberg spends a year as West Bromwich Albion FC's artist in residence, but his time with the club coincides with a dramatic turn of fortunes.

11.00 **Film: Chef.** (2014) A man quits his job at a restaurant and teams up with his ex-wife, his friend and his son to launch a food truck in Miami. Comedy, with Jon Favreau and Robert Downey Jr.

1.10 The Last Leg. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R) **2.05** **Film: Rams.** (2015) Two brothers who have not spoken in years put their differences aside to protect their family's sheep herd. Drama, starring Sigurdur Sigurjonsson and Theodor Juliusson. **3.45** Mobil 1: The Grid. Discussing teamwork with the Red Bull Formula One team. (R) **4.10** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. Three Derby homeowners, with the aid of £1,000 and the host's help, have one week to make their houses appeal to newly married buyers Lou and Steve. (R) **5.05** My Kitchen Rules. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Kittens. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Only the Little White Van. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends: Extraordinary Engines. (R) **7.35** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.20** Pirata & Capitano. **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.05** **Film: Nanny McPhee.** (2005) **3.05** Access. **3.10** **Film: Nanny McPhee.** (2005) **Concluded. 4.10** **Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang.** (2010) **5.10** Access. **5.15** **Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang.** (2010) **Concluded.**

6.15 **The Wonderful World of Puppies: Homeward Bound.** Rocky the golden retriever moves in with a young family in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, and has to learn to curb his excitement when playing with the children.

7.05 **Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers.** The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show, featuring the funniest fails, flops and falls uploaded to the internet.

8.00 **Funnest Ever Game Show Moments.** Ore Oduba presents a selection of memorable moments featuring celebrities appearing on game shows, including Bradley Walsh's struggles with the strangest questions on The Chase.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 **Film: Face/Off.** (1997) Action thriller, with Nicolas Cage and John Travolta.

10.00 5 News Update.

10.05 **Film: Face/Off.** (1997) **Concluded.** **11.45** **Film: Fight Club.** (1999) A disillusioned office worker and his mysterious friend start a club where frustrated men vent their anger in bare-knuckle fighting. Drama, starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton.

12.45 Access. **12.50** **Film: Fight Club.** (1999) **Concluded. 2.25** SuperCasino. **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 BBC Proms 2018 **8.45** Nature's Weirdest Events **9.00** Archaeology: A Secret History **10.00** Six Wives with Lucy Worsley **11.00** Royal Welsh Show 2018 Highlights **12.00** The Lost Gold of the Highlands: Storyville **1.15** Daniil Trifonov: Piano Sensation **2.15** Archaeology: A Secret History **3.15** Close

ITV2

12.15 Ninja Warrior UK **1.15** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.50** **Film: Yogi Bear** (2010) **3.50** **FYI Daily** **3.55** **Film: Yogi Bear** (2010) **4.25** **Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax** (2012) **5.35** **FYI Daily** **5.40** **Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax** (2012) **6.10** **Film: Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones** (2002) **7.10** **FYI Daily** **7.15** **Film: Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones** (2002) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** CelebAbility **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 NightScreen

ITV3

11.55 A Touch of Frost **1.55** Housewife, 49 **3.55** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Foyle's War **6.55** Victoria **9.00** The Halcyn **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.15** Road to Avonlea **3.55** George and Mildred **4.50** Judge Judy **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

6.30 Goodwood Festival of Speed **7.30** Storage Wars: Texas **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Tour de France Highlights **10.00** **Film: Jaws** 3 (1983) **11.00** **FYI Daily** **11.05** **Film: Jaws** 3 (1983) **12.05** Better Late Than Never **12.55** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **2.00** The Motorbike Show **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** Young Sheldon **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **3.30** **Film: Rango** (2011) **5.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film: The Bourne Legacy** (2012) **11.40** Gogglebox **12.40** The Big Bang Theory **1.35** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **2.35** Rude Tube **3.30** Hollyoaks **Film4** **11.00** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **1.00** Spirited Away (2001) **3.30** First Daughter (2004) **5.50** Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011) **9.00** Spy (2015) **11.20** End of Watch (2012) **1.30** Tabu (2012) **3.55** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Entertainer, BBC2, 12pm

A down-at-heel comedian looks back at his failure both as an entertainer and as a man. John Osborne's drama, with Laurence Olivier. (1960)

TUESDAY

Love Is a Many Splendored Thing, BBC2, 12.05pm

A married American news correspondent reporting on the Korean War from his base in Hong Kong falls in love with a widowed Eurasian doctor - but he is unable to get a divorce and the couple find themselves forced to keep their relationship a secret. Romantic drama based on the memoirs of Han Suyin, with William Holden, Jennifer Jones and Torin Thatcher. (1955)

WEDNESDAY

The Seven Little Foys, BBC2, 12pm

Biopic of popular vaudeville star Eddie Foy, whose life and career fell apart when his wife died young, leaving him to raise seven children on his own. However, love of the limelight proved irresistible and his manager succeeded in persuading him to work the children into his act - despite the protests of his sister-in-law. With Bob Hope, Milly Vitale, George Tobias and a cameo by James Cagney. (1955)



The Break-Up, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY

I Was Monty's Double, BBC2, 12pm

Fact-based drama about actor and army officer ME Clifton-James, whose remarkable resemblance to General Montgomery saw him selected for a special assignment during the Second World War. He was trained to imitate the general perfectly, and sent on a tour of North Africa to keep the real Montgomery's whereabouts unknown to the enemy. Clifton-James stars as both himself and Monty, alongside John Mills and Cecil Parker. (1958)

FRIDAY

The Break-Up, ITV, 10.45pm

A couple's relationship comes to an end, but neither wants to give up their home, forcing them to carry on living together. Comedy drama, starring Jennifer Aniston, Vince Vaughn, Jon Favreau and Joey Lauren Adams. (2006)

Checking in for a new series with more famous faces

Making TV programmes isn't easy. Everyone wants to create a hit, but how do you do that? Some producers decide to copy a previous show's success, making it just different enough to avoid any trouble.

The brains behind The Real Marigold Hotel did something very smart indeed. They took the premise of the film The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel and tried to find out if British pensioners really could make their pensions stretch further by moving to India.

"BBC Two has a strong track record of creating bold new factual formats and Marigold proved to be an instant break through," says the channel's editor, Patrick Holland. "Who would have thought that a show about retirement would become such a hit with audiences young and old?"

Well, perhaps it's down to the fact that we are, according to statistics, an ageing nation, so the subject matter appeals to more of us - we're either around the same age as the participants or, if

we're lucky, we will be one day and want to know what options lay ahead.

The first series saw the celebrities spend three weeks sampling the sights and sounds of Jaipur, capital of the state of Rajasthan in Northern India. They set up home in a haveli - a private mansion - where they had to work out whether they could take care of themselves or need staff to lend a hand.

That run proved to be so popular that the second series moved to BBC One, with a new batch of famous faces setting up home in Kochi; two spin-offs saw celebs from both seasons travelling to Florida, Kyoto, China, Cuba, Iceland and Thailand. Now a third series is upon us.

"We've got a brilliant line up of famous faces checking into The Real Marigold Hotel," says David Clews, director of production company Twofour. "They're a fabulous and funny mix of characters, honest and open about their personal stories, and all of them excited to explore what

retirement has to offer in the vibrant and beautiful city of Udaipur.

"We've got our first married couple too, which adds a brand new dynamic. It's going to be the best series yet."

One of the joys of the programme is seeing new friendships form between the participants - and they're certainly a mixed bag this time around.

It's hard to imagine what former newsreader Selina Scott and actors Stephanie Beacham and Susan George will find to say to Ian and Janette Tough, aka The Krankies; they simply come from very different worlds.

But the Toughs will, you would think, bond with fellow comedian Syd Little. He also moves into their idyllic new home on the shores of Lake Pichola alongside ex-EastEnders Peter Dean, former jockey Bob Champion and author Stanley 'father of Boris' Johnson, who knows how celebrity-driven shows work having spent time in I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!



The Real Marigold Hotel, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Lorry Ladies

BBC1, 7.30pm

Angela Rippon is a trailblazer. Back in the 1970s, she became the first woman to regularly present the news for the BBC. As a result, her fame transcended her day job and she popped up on numerous other programmes, even showing off her previously unknown dance talents to great effect alongside Eric and Ernie on the 1976 Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show. Now she's meeting fellow trailblazers, albeit of a different kind. Female lorry drivers aren't exactly unheard of, but those she interviews during a trip to Northern Ireland have taken the profession to a new level. Here they talk about their passion for the open road and why, after a long week behind the wheel, like nothing better than attending truck festivals across the country.

TUESDAY

Age Before Beauty

BBC1, 9pm

Before she gave us the revamped Poldark, writer Debbie Horsfield scored a hit with the hairdressing drama series Cutting It. Now, she's going back to her roots with the new series Age Before Beauty, which, like its predecessor, is set in a Manchester salon - although it turns out that the beauty

industry has moved on a lot since Cutting It's noughties heyday. Hopefully, Bel Finch (Polly Walker) will be able to catch up on the changing trends though. She's suffering from empty-nest syndrome after dropping her teenage kids off at university, so her brother-in-law Teddy (Robson Green) suggest she comes back to the family salon, which the rest of the clan are currently running into the ground. Meanwhile, Bel's joiner husband Wesley (James Murray) is embarking on a new business deal of his own as he comes to an arrangement with a glamorous personal trainer.

WEDNESDAY

Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience

BBC2, 10pm

The eighth run of the show in which the comedian gets to try a variety of professions for size has already been broadcast in his native Wales, but for the rest of us, it's all new. The four-part series begins as Gilbert is set perhaps his most difficult challenge yet - to become a classical musician. This is not something he's going to be able achieve overnight; professionals spend years honing their skills before stepping out stage. As you may have already

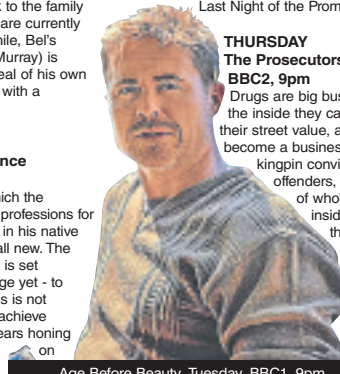
guessed, he isn't going to be handed a violin or oboe and told to get on with it. Instead, he learns which instrument (he doesn't play one to any kind of standard) suits him best before receiving lots of help from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. But will he be good enough to join them on stage during the Last Night of the Proms?

THURSDAY

The Prosecutors

BBC2, 9pm

Drugs are big business in prisons. On the inside they can can fetch four times their street value, and serving time can become a business opportunity for kingpin convicts. To prosecute the offenders, police need evidence of who's involved on the inside - and who's flying the packages in. Filmed over a year, with behind-the-scenes access to the CPS and West Mercia police, this two-part film follows Senior Crown Prosecutor Eran



Age Before Beauty, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

Cutliffe as she works to build an extraordinarily complex case against a network of people - both inside and outside prisons - who are using drone technology to exploit the captive market. With insights behind the scenes at court, we see how deals are made and the tensions between gang members who are charged together in a conspiracy.

FRIDAY

European Championships 2018

BBC2, 5.15pm

The 11-day celebration of European sport continues with the second day's events Glasgow. The Tollcross International Swimming Centre hosts the semi-finals of the women's 50m freestyle and 100m butterfly, as well as the men's 50m backstroke and 100m breaststroke. The latter should feature Olympic gold-medalist Adam Peaty as he steps up his 'Project 56' bid and aims to become the first swimmer to dip below 57 seconds in the event. Plus, there are finals in the women's 400m IM, featuring Scottish favourite Hannah Miley, and 4x100m freestyle relay, as well as the men's 400m freestyle and 4x100m freestyle relay. Over at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, the qualifiers in the men's and women's team sprint and team pursuit take place, before the finals in the team sprints and scratch races.

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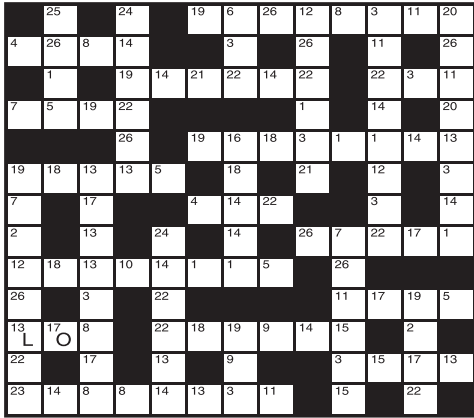
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	A	N	O	P	W	U	I	G	D	X	T	S	K
14	F	Z	E	C	R	Q	M	V	H	B	L	Y	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

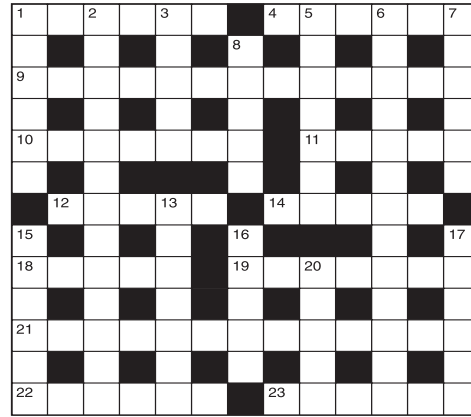
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. She introduces wrong male to father (6)
4. Principal paper-fastener (6)
9. Assume an inferior position in order to criticise the driver? (4,1,4,4)
10. Musically illiterate? (7)
11. In this book a picture of an animal (5)
12. Drew back: one inside was uncanny (5)
14. Stick on a very loud number (5)
18. Torso under the ground? (5)
19. Competitor ran into untidy tent (7)
21. Resoluteness in decision making (13)
22. Stolen and taken up (6)
23. Rocks spirit in ship (6)

Down

1. Offended by being expelled (3,3)
2. Fat emmet shook me – exploit it (4,3,4,2)
3. Get to know Labour leader to get a wage (5)
5. Caricature of getting into the air (4-3)
6. Quibbling about charge after private car smash (13)
7. Involve ten in error who are unwell (6)
8. Tough novelist? (5)
13. Start the game again out of shyness? (7)
15. Sounds like headgear to restrain horse for the new wife! (6)
16. Admit 7 upset without article (3,2)
17. Paradoxically spectators may sit here (6)
20. Characteristic skill is up to it (5)



Quick Clues:

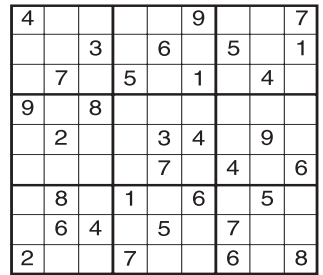
Across

1. Taper (6)
4. Outcome (6)
9. Tree-planting (13)
10. Procession (7)
11. Subsequently (5)
12. Pirate (5)
14. A gem (5)
18. Discompose (5)
19. Denial (7)
21. Forethought (13)
22. Tried out (6)
23. Association (6)

Down

1. Opportunity (6)
2. Villainy (13)
3. Big (5)
5. Issue (7)
6. Dull (13)
7. Holding (6)
8. Awry (5)
13. Ultimate (7)
15. Production (6)
16. Corn (5)
17. Dive (6)
20. Skeleton (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	7	3	8	6	9	5	1	4
6	5	9	3	1	4	8	7	2
1	8	4	2	5	7	6	3	9
5	1	7	9	8	3	4	2	6
9	6	2	5	4	1	7	8	3
3	4	8	6	7	2	1	9	5
7	3	5	4	2	8	9	6	1
8	2	6	1	9	5	3	4	7
4	9	1	7	3	6	2	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Disconsolate; 7 Borer; 8 Abuse; 9 Ill; 10 Publisher; 11 Inward; 12 Rising; 15 Easter day; 17 Air; 18 Llama; 19 Least; 21 Stone-dresser. Down: 1 Dispiritedly; 2 Oar; 3 Scribe; 4 Liability; 5 Touch; 6 Refrigerator; 7 Below; 10 Porcelain; 13 Inapt; 14 Addled; 16 Smart; 20 Ace. QUICK - Across: 1 Crossed wires; 7 Deter; 8 Put on; 9 One; 10 Constrains; 11 Resume; 12 Mellow; 15 Pertinent; 17 War; 18 Exist; 19 Utter; 21 Interference. Down: 1 Cartographer; 2 Set; 3 Daring; 4 Impatient; 5 Extra; 6 Unanswerable; 7 Dress; 10 Committee; 13 Lower; 14 Rebuff; 16 Reign; 20 Tar.

Quiz

1. To which country did Bosnia belong from 1463 to 1878?
2. Which atomic particle is negatively charged?
3. Of which country was Haile Selassie regent, king and finally emperor?
4. In which US state is Dodge City?
5. Which equestrian event's name is French for 'the training of horses'?
6. Who discovered the respiratory effects of laughing gas?
7. Which organs are affected by nephritis?
8. With which form of entertainment is Hal Prince associated?
9. In which city is Madison Square Garden?
10. Whose half-sister is singer Roslyn Kind?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Helios; 2 Bell; 3 Craps; 4 None; 5 Passover; 6 Komodo Dragon; 7 Japan; 8 Cronus; 9 Have a baby; 10 Libretto.

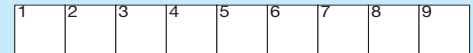
Niner: FLOWERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4732387
9632
6315

gives a foreign ruler,
gives a second foreign ruler,
gives a wise man.



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Lower mall (near Debenhams)
Wed to Sat, July 25 - 28, 9.30am to 4.30pm
and Sun, July 29 from 10.30am to 4.00pm*

MANDER CENTRE, WOLVERHAMPTON
Lower mall (outside former BHS store)
Mon to Sat, July 30 - Aug 4, 9.30am to 4.30pm
* Last photos 4.15pm Monday to Saturday and 3.45pm on Sunday at Intu Merry Hill.

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Express & Star



PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Well-presented two-bedroomed property on sale

A well presented two-bedroomed semi-detached property, 22 Croxley Gardens in Willenhall, lies close to amenities and local transport links.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley estate agents at offers over £140,000.

Its living accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms and a shower room.

Having double glazing and gas central heating, to the front of the property is a concrete print driveway providing parking for two vehicles, with double timber gates providing access to further parking and a garage. To the rear there is a fully enclosed garden with a pedestrian gate providing access to the frontage.

In more detail the property has its main entrance door to the side. The entrance hallway has stairs off to the first floor. The lounge has a bow window to the front elevation, ornate coving, a ceiling rose with a light point, an Adam-style fireplace with a marble hearth and an inset living flame gas fire.

Having a range of matching wall and base units, the kitchen/diner has complementary working surfaces with tiled splash-backs, plumbing for an automatic washing machine, an under-stairs storage cupboard, French doors to the rear elevation and a double glazed door leading to the side of the property.

Upstairs, the landing has loft access. Bedroom one has double glazed windows to the front.

Bedroom two has a double glazed window to the rear.

The shower room has an obscure glass UPVC double glazed window to the rear elevation, part tiled walls, a WC, wash hand basin and a shower cubicle.

Outside, the rear garden is fully enclosed, having a paved seating area leading to a lawn with a well-stocked shrub, tree and flower borders with a pedestrian gate providing access to the frontage.

WILLENHALL £140,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Paul Dubberley Estate Agents

TEL: 01902 633323

EMAIL: willemhall@pauldubberley.co.uk



KEY FEATURES

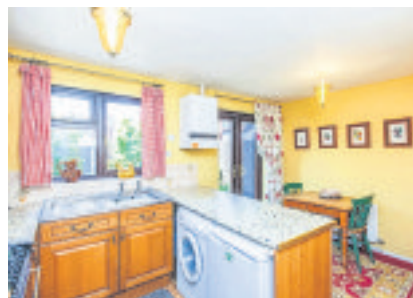
Semi-detached property

Two bedrooms

Popular area

Driveway, further parking & garage

Rear garden



They're sold

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29

The Chronicle Thursday, July 26, 2018

REDUCED



Werneth Grove, Turnberry Estate

- Extended Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Main Lounge
- Sitting Room and Dining Area
- Conservatory
- EPC - TBC

£320,000

NEW



Baytree Road, Bloxwich

- Extended Traditional Detached Family Home
- Three Reception Rooms
- Generous Driveway and Single Garage
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC - D (67)

£250,000

NEW



Broad Lane, Bloxwich

- Extended Four Bedroom Detached Home
- Two Bathrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Private Rear Garden

£260,000



Love Lane, Great Wyrley

- Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Block Paved Driveway
- Car Port & Gated Parking
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- EPC - D (66)


£280,000



Enderley Drive, Bloxwich

- Detached Bungalow
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Breakfast Kitchen
- EPC - E (44)

£260,000



Astbury Close, Turnberry Estate

- Modern Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Block Paved Driveway
- Entrance Hallway & Guest WC
- EPC - D (65)

£210,000



The Alcove, Bloxwich

- Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- EPC - C (60)

£195,000



Griffins Crescent, Walsall

- The Kingsford' Design by Taylor Wimpey
- Popular Saddlers Brook Development
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Easy Access to Local Towns and the M6
- Granite Tiled Flooring in Hall & Kitchen
- EPC - C (79)

£185,000

NEW



Ashbourne Road, Bloxwich

- Ideal Starter Home
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms

£140,000

NEW



Bealeys Close, Bloxwich

- Beautifully Presented Luxury Apartment
- Overlooking King George Playing Fields
- Secure Intercom Entrance
- Garage
- Allocated Parking Space

£139,950



Walhouse Road, Walsall

- Very Well Presented Period Style Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC - D (39)


£185,000



Penmire Grove, Rushall

- Modern Taylor Wimpey Home
- NHBC guarantee remaining
- 'Show Home' Condition
- Three Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom
- EPC - C (79)

£180,000



Links Court, Turnberry Estate

- Exclusive Over 60's Development
- One Bedroom Apartment
- Parking Space Included
- Luxury Fixtures and Fittings
- Ground Floor
- EPC - B (82)

£169,950

REDUCED



Ingram Road, Bloxwich

- Spacious Four Bedroom House
- Refitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Large Rear Garden
- Driveway
- EPC - C (72)

£150,000



Cope Street, Leamore

- Three Bedrooms & A Loft Room
- Recently Refurbished
- New Carpets Fitted
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC - TBC

£129,500



Bentley Lane, Reedwood

- Modern End of Terrace Property
- Allocated Parking
- Built by Cala Homes in 2008
- Ground Floor WC
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- EPC - TBC

O.I.E.O £120,000



Springhill Court, Sutton Road

- Two Bedroom Town Centre Flat
- Second Floor
- Communal Parking
- Very Good Condition Throughout
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating
- EPC - F (31)


O.I.E.O £80,000



Walker Road, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- EPC - B (83)

£80,000



Station Street, Bloxwich

- No Upward Chain
- Ground Floor
- Lease - 106 Years Remaining
- Close To Train Station (0.3 miles)
- Located Just Off Bloxwich High Street
- EPC - E (44)

£75,000

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Paul Dubberley

WILLENHALL

Stroud Avenue, Willenhall,
West Midlands, WV12 4DH

£165,000



This three bedroom semi detached property situated in the popular Short Heath area of Willenhall. Living accommodation comprises of: Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom and Driveway and carport.

Thornbury Road, Walsall,
West Midlands, WS2 8JL

£294,995



A modern spacious detached property situated in the Walsall area. Living accommodation comprises of: Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Guest Cloak Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Conservatory, Four Bedrooms, En-suite to the Master, Family Bathroom and Driveway with Double Detached Garage.

Gipsy Lane, Willenhall,
West Midlands, WV13 2HG

£125,000



A well presented three bedroom mid terrace property located in the Willenhall area. The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating and briefly comprises of: Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Shower Room, Three Bedrooms and a Guest W.C.

103 Gipsy Lane, Willenhall,
WV13 2HG

£112,000



We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £112,000 on the property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is E

01902 633 323 willenhall@pauldubberley.co.uk
14 New Road, Willenhall WV13 2BG



PROPERTY



Deceptively spacious detached has swimming pool

A well-presented and deceptively spacious detached property on Lichfield Road, Pelsall, Walsall, is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents for offers over £390,000.

The residence briefly comprises a through hallway, lounge, dining room, generous family living kitchen, conservatory, guest WC, three/four bedrooms, an en-suite, and a family bathroom.

In addition, there is an indoor swimming pool, conservatory, family room, utility area and shower

PELSALL
£390,000

room, landscaped gardens and a generous driveway. The kitchen/family room has double windows to the side and rear elevation, and is generous in size.

The conservatory is equipped with double glazed windows, and doors to the shower room and utility room. It also features double glazed

French doors to the garden and swimming pool.

The family room features double glazed windows to the front elevation, a radiator, and a storage cupboard with a separate boiler for the swimming pool.

The master bedroom is complete with fitted wardrobes, and the en-suite features a shower cubicle, a low level WC and a wash basin.

Contact Webbs Estate Agents on 01922 663399.

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NEW **Sanstone Road, Bloxwich, Walsall**
Bloxwich, Walsall




• Stunning Executive Home
• Porch, Hall
• Orengery, Utility Room
• Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
• Bathroom
• 5 Bedrooms, En-Suite
• Garage, Gardens
• Viewing Essential

EPC 0

£450,000

NEW **Buckmaster Way, Rugeley**

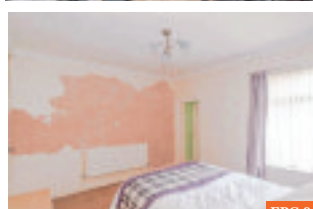





• New Build Home
• 9 Yrs NHBC Warranty
• Upgraded Throughout
• Hall, WC
• Lounge/Diner
• Bathroom, En-suite
• 3 Bedrooms
• Parking, Driveway

EPC 0

£185,000

NEW **Well Lane, Bloxwich, Walsall**
Bloxwich, Walsall



• Traditional Terrace
• Lounge, Dining Room
• Bathroom
• 3 Bedrooms
• Rear Driveway
• Garden
• Viewing Recommended
• No Chain

EPC 0

£110,000

NEW **Littlewood Road, Cheslyn Hay, Walsall**
Cheslyn Hay, Walsall



• Detached Bungalow
• Through Hall
• Lounge/Diner
• Kitchen
• 3 Bedrooms
• Bathroom
• Generous Gardens
• Private Driveway

EPC 82

£199,950

NEW **Ferndown Close, Turnberry / Bloxwich, Walsall**
Turnberry / Bloxwich, Walsall



• Sought After Location
• Deceptively Spacious
• Hallway, Lounge
• Dining Room, Kitchen
• WC, Garage Conversion
• 4 Bedrooms, Shower Room
• Bathroom
• Driveway, Gardens

EPC 0

£310,000

NEW **Rose Cottage, Upper Sneyd Road, Essington**
Essington, Wolverhampton




• Detached Cottage
• Needs Upgrading
• Sought After Location
• Lounge, Kitchen
• 2/3 Bedrooms
• Bathroom
• Garage, Workshop
• No Chain

EPC 39

£185,000

NEW **Hodgkins Close, Brownhills, Walsall**
Brownhills, Walsall



• Corner Plot
• Well Presented
• Hallway, Lounge
• Conservatory
• Kitchen
• 2 Bedrooms
• Refitted Bathroom
• Driveway, Gardens

EPC 0

£139,950

NEW **Astoria Gardens, Willenhall**
Willenhall



• Family Home
• Deceptively Spacious
• Porch, Hallway
• Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
• Conservatory
• 2 Double Bedrooms
• Bathroom, WC
• Gardens, Driveway

EPC 0

£109,950

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Auction

Thursday 2nd
August 2018
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The Banks's Stadium, Bescot
Crescent, Walsall, West
Midlands. WS1 4SA

LOT 1 Trees Road Walsall

31st July 11am



●Guide Price £80,000 PLUS

Located not far from Broadway, this well planned spacious semi detached property is in need of complete modernisation and improvement. Viewing is recommended to appreciate the tremendous scope on offer.

LOT 2 Portsea Street Walsall

25th July 4:30pm



●Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

Set on a good size plot with substantial frontage, this traditionally styled semi detached property is in need of full modernisation and improvement. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing.

LOT 4 Fordbrook Court Walsall

By appointment through the auctioneers



Situated in the heart of Walsall Town Centre this one bedroom first floor flat is in need of slight modernisation. This property would ideally be suited towards an investor
●Guide Price £38,500 PLUS

LOT 5 Birmingham Road Walsall

By appointment through auctioneers



●Guide Price £240,000 PLUS

A truly substantial, late Victorian property offering spacious living accommodation, with a character and appeal seldom seen today. Occupying a most convenient situation with regular bus provision direct to Birmingham, together with ease of access on to all the regions motorways, the property will particularly suit the larger family or investment purchaser. The property has been well maintained by the current vendor, having recently installed Bathroom and Shower Room a recently refitted roof and newly installed gas boiler. The property affords gas central heating and demands viewing to appreciate the space and appeal within.

LOT 8 Trysull Road Wolverhampton

30th July 11am



This well appointed and maintained semi detached property offers well planned, gas centrally heated accommodation which also benefits from double glazing. Situated in a popular location within a short distance of Wolverhampton City Centre, the property would make an ideal investment. Set back behind a driveway with off street parking, side access leads to good size rear garden.

●Guide Price £85,000 PLUS

LOT 9 Longwood Road Aldridge

30th July 1:45pm



●Guide Price £275,000 PLUS

Situated in a popular semi rural location, on the outskirts of Aldridge this traditionally styled semi detached property, affords splendid views from the rear. With gas central heating and some double glazing the property is in need of modernisation and improvement.

LOT 10 Parklands Gardens Walsall

By appointment through Auctioneers



Situated just off Birmingham Road in a sought after area, this Leasehold second floor flat is let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy dating back to October 2008 at a rent of £90.00 per week. Benefiting from double glazing, the flat has been well maintained and is sold with the benefit of a 999 year lease from September 1981.

●Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

LOT 14 Lindens Drive Streetly

30th July 1pm



●Guide Price £200,000 PLUS

Situated in a popular residential area, this traditionally styled semi detached property, has been extended at ground floor level and offers well planned accommodation ideally suited to the needs of family. With gas central heating and double glazing.

LOT 15 Waterloo Road Yardley

31st July 3pm



●Guide Price £95,000 PLUS

This Victorian end terraced property would make an ideal buy to let, situated in a good location just off the A45 Coventry Road. Offering good accommodation with larger than average rear Gardens, the property is in need of some improvement.

LOT 22 Barns Lane Rushall

18th July 3:30pm, 21st July 10:45am 25th July 3:30pm



●Guide Price £120,000 PLUS

Although in need of some minor improvements, this substantial four bedroom mid terraced property would make an ideal purchase for the owner occupier or investor. Situated in a popular sought after residential area, the property is set back from the road behind a driveway with off street parking, whilst to the rear is a good size private rear garden.

LOT 24 Circuit Close Willenhall

By appointment through Auctioneers



●Guide Price £40,000 PLUS

Purpose built first floor maisonette is an ideal investment opportunity and benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. Set on a small residential development.

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide



Well-presented detached house lies on popular development

BLOXWICH
£310,000 <<<

This well presented detached family home in Ferndown Close, Turnbury estate, Bloxwich, Walsall, lies in the popular Turnberry development.

Being close to all local amenities, shops and schools, it is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £310,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a through hallway, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, a guest WC, garage conversion, four bedrooms, shower room and bathroom. Outside there is a private driveway and landscaped gardens.

The entrance hallway has stairs off to the first floor.

The lounge has a window to the front elevation, a feature fireplace and French doors to the dining room. The dining room has patio doors to the garden.

Contact Webbs estate agents on 01922 663399.



Spacious detached home on corner plot

ALDRIDGE
£365,000

This spacious detached four-bedroomed home in Leighswood Avenue, Aldridge, Walsall, lies on a superb corner plot in a highly regarded and sought-after location.

It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £365,000.

Being ideally situated for all schools and amenities, the property has tremendous potential, by virtue of the space at the side. With gas central heating and double glazing, the accommodation includes a porch, impressive open plan lounge/dining room, a kitchen, downstairs WC, a useful store, four bedrooms, a bathroom, an integral garage, delightful gardens to the front, rear and side and parking. It is ideally situated for all schools and amenities.

Contact Edwards Moore on 01922 745105.



Well-presented house has extension potential

BLOXWICH
£210,000

A well-presented family home in a cul-de-sac on the popular Turnberry development in Astbury Close, Bloxwich, Walsall, has extension potential.

It is for sale through Goodchilds estate agents at £210,000.

The property has been well maintained. It has a block paved driveway for two vehicles, an entrance hall with a guest WC, a main lounge leading through to a kitchen/diner with a conservatory to the rear.

To the first floor are three bedrooms and a beautifully re-fitted bathroom. To the outside is a private and well-established rear garden with a patio area and a door into the garage.

Contact Goodchilds 01922 405699.



Family home benefits from corner plot in popular area

WALSALL
£240,000 <<<

This stunning family home on a corner plot in Griffins Crescent, Walsall, is packed with the "wow factor".

It is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at offers over £240,000.

It is situated in a sought-after cul-de-sac location on a popular development.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a through hallway, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a guest WC, four bedrooms, a bathroom and an en-suite to the master.

Outside, there is a private driveway, a garage and landscaped gardens. In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off. The lounge has a bay window to the front and French doors to the kitchen/diner, which is stunning.

To book a viewing contact Webbs Estate Agents on 01922 663399.





The Fiesta Active features an increased ride height

Rugged new Ford Fiesta Active is an 'exciting lifestyle crossover'

By Sharon Walters

Ford latest crossover – the Fiesta Active – starts at a price of £17,790 with the jacked-up city car available in three variants – Active 1, Active B&O Play and Active X – and is in the firm's range alongside the Ka+ Active in "offering buyers an exciting lifestyle crossover".

It has the basic design of the latest version of the Fiesta, but all Active models will receive a rugged-look body styling kit, an increased ride height, roof rails, front fog lights and 17-inch alloy wheels as standard.

There's also three selectable drive modes – Eco, Normal and Slippery – along with Hill Start Assist.

Other features included at no extra cost are lane-keep technology, automatic headlights, a heated windscreen and rear privacy glass.

Ford's SYNC 3 infotainment system with Bluetooth connectivity features too, which also supports Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

B&O Play models add more kit and get their name from 10-speaker Bang & Olufsen audio systems that feature, as well as aesthetic tweaks such as a black roof with matching rails.

There's also yellow highlights throughout the cabin, along with additional tech such as cruise control, rain-sensing wipers, illuminated cup holders and



It has the basic design of the latest Fiesta

a 4.2-inch TFT instrument cluster with traffic sign recognition.

Pricing for the B&O Play variants begins at £19,190.

The range-topping Active X brings partial leather upholstery, heated front seats, power-foldable door mirrors with puddle lights, a rear-view camera and parking sensors, as well as the addition of navigation and DAB radio to the SYNC 3 system. It's available from £20,290.

Two engines are on offer for the Fiesta Active.

There's one petrol unit, a three-cylinder, turbocharged 1.0-litre motor that is available in four states of tune – 84bhp, 99bhp, 123bhp and 138bhp.

A diesel option is also available. This is a 1.5-litre engine, developing 84bhp.

No matter the choice of engine, a six-speed manual gearbox features, while auto stop-start technology is included as well.

Orders can now be placed for the new Ford Fiesta Active, with the deliveries expected to follow imminently.



The Active X features partial leather upholstery

3 YEARS

0% APR*

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PLUS

Extra

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NEW 68 PLATE FORDS

NEW ECOSPORT ZETEC

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£259*

DEPOSIT

£259*

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DEPOSIT

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PER MONTH x38

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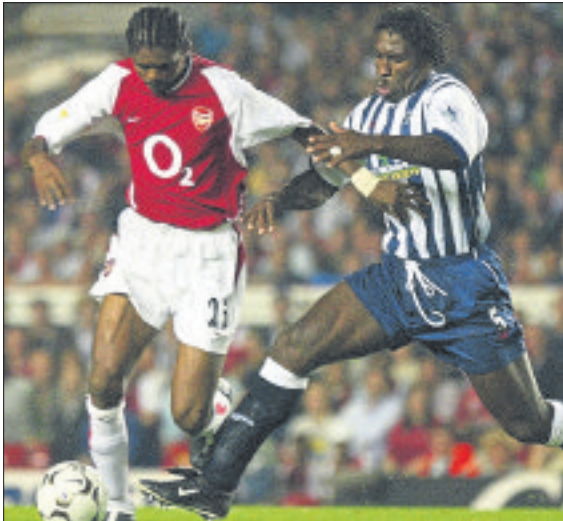
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The big Baggies number 5 gets to grips with Arsenal's Kanu in 2002



Darren Moore – taking Albion forward in a new direction



Paul Scholes is challenged during Albion's clash with Man United in 2003



Ex-Portsmouth player Linvoy Primus helped set up a charity with Moore



Cyrille Regis, also a Christian, who would have been part of Darren's team

Darren hopes Albion will have faith in the future

WHEN Darren Moore went back to Fratton Park with Albion as a player, he used to take the unusual measure of meeting up with the opposition players in the kit room before the game.

But this was not a catch-up with former team-mates, it was an opportunity to pray with Portsmouth's flourishing Christian contingent. A huge, hulking centre-back, Moore was a formidable presence on the pitch, as any striker who competed against him would attest to.

Off the pitch there is still the same determination driving the man forward, but there is also a calming warmth and amiable manner. Moore found Christianity during his time at Bradford City and, since then, faith has played a huge role in his life.

Linvoy Primus was one of those members of the Portsmouth prayer group, and remains close to the Baggies boss to this day.

"There were nine players at Portsmouth who were Christians," Primus said. "Whenever Darren came back with West Brom he would come in and pray.

"It was a unique thing that happened but it was a place where you could get some peace."

Bradford

In 2002, Primus and Moore helped set up the Faith and Football charity with former player Micky Mellows and Primus now offers support to Christians in the game through another charity called Christians In Sport.

Moore's faith has already played a role during his time in charge of the Baggies. Wayne Jacobs, who was his team-mate at Bradford, is a Christian too and one of the reasons Moore turned to the religion.

Jacobs was the unseen member of Moore's coaching staff during his spell as caretaker and Moore is planning to use the man he trusts again next season.

Primus believes Moore's faith will play a huge role in his approach to management. "Darren's been in the industry for a very long time," said Primus. "What you see is what you're going to get. His identity isn't going to be defined by the job he's got, his identity is in the person he follows, which is Christ.

"He's a thoughtful guy anyway and his support for people is going to be number one in that.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Wilson

"Darren's got some really good tools, he'll be hard-working, honest and transparent with the players..."

"The industry of football has got a very quick turnaround in terms of staff, managers and players and it's very hard to build a legacy, but I think Darren will, through his faith, be able to show the value to every single person involved to make going forward as a club successful."

Lee Bradbury was also playing at Portsmouth near the start of the century, and remains close friends with Moore. He is now manager of Havant & Waterlooville, and has just guided them to back-to-back titles that have taken the Hawks into the National League.

The 42-year-old employs a chaplain at his club and believes Moore's faith will support him in the season ahead. "Darren's got some really good tools, he'll be hardworking, honest and transparent with the players," said Bradbury.

"And they know those qualities that he's got are genuine, rather than for an ulterior motive. He'll stay true to himself and his faith will help him along the way. Jesus has helped him get to where he is, so he's more than happy to put his faith in God."

Bradbury came up and stayed with Moore on the weekend of Albion's stunning victory over Tottenham at The Hawthorns towards the end of last season.

At the time, Jake Livermore's 92nd-minute winner kept alive the club's slim hopes of survival.

"The place was buzzing!" recalled Bradbury. "You could feel that the fans wanted him to get the job because of the connection they have for him. They might not have met him, but he's a family man, and he's trying to instil those qualities at the club."

Bradbury expects Moore to employ a club chaplain

at Albion in the coming months, and it's something he'd recommend. "Some players don't want to talk to managers, so to have someone who people can trust and speak openly to is really important," he said.

"Everyone's got different faiths, if you can help them be comfortable in the workplace, that's half the battle."

It's not just the players that need that support network. The man himself also needs someone to lean on, even if it looks like nothing would ever topple him. Every six months, Moore meets up with a support network for Christians in football ran by Primus through the Christians in Sport charity.

Depending on availability, the group can range from between half a dozen people to upwards of 30. They meet in hotel foyers, restaurants, and even training grounds, whatever is convenient.

"There's a number of Christian footballers and coaches in the Midlands so we try and get the group together," explained Primus.

"Ultimately, we ask how does God say you should deal with these things?"

"Cyrille Regis used to come along as well."

Regis was a Christian too, and used to attend the same large family church as Moore, the Renewal Christian Centre in Solihull.

The legendary Albion striker was Moore's mentor and would have been a part of his team next season had he not passed away so suddenly at the age of 59.

Regis was one of a kind, but Primus hopes that gap on Moore's journey ahead will be filled by others from the church who will offer their support.

"His local church will be part of that support, with that support he will be able to move forward and get through. It's more about the man than the job that he's doing."

Albion's new head coach has a strong affinity to the surrounding community. He grew up playing football in an underpass in Handsworth, and is well aware of the importance of the club to those who follow it.

Sixteen years ago he helped set up Faith and Football with Primus, a community charity aimed at serving local areas in Portsmouth and Handsworth.

"We really wanted to look at the way we serve the community," said Primus. "We knew football would be an easy draw, everyone likes football. I think it's an exciting time for the club. This is what he's wanted to do, he's always wanted to be the manager."

Checktrade Trophy fate now revealed

WOLVES, Albion and Walsall all learned their Checktrade Trophy fate after the draw for the group stage was completed.

All 48 League One and League Two clubs were drawn into 16 groups earlier this month.

But the 16 invited clubs from the Premier League and Championship – who will all field under-21 sides – were later added in.

Wolves have been drawn in Group H and will take on Scunthorpe, last season's winners Lincoln City and Mansfield Town.

Albion, who are in Group C, will face Accrington, Blackpool and Macclesfield.

While Walsall – who reached the final of the competition in 2015 – have been placed in Group E alongside Burton, Port Vale and Middlesbrough.

Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham and Manchester City are among those to enter teams into the competition this year.

Finch passes Test with flying colours

HIMLEY paceman Adam Finch enhanced his growing reputation by helping to fire England Under-19s to a series victory over South Africa.

The 18-year-old Worcestershire seamer took eight wickets in the second Test as England won by four wickets at the Emirates Riverside to seal a 2-0 triumph.

Wordsley-born Finch, who plays regularly for Himley in the Birmingham League, bagged 4-22 as South Africa, who had a first innings lead of 76, were rolled over for just 90 in their second innings. That impressive burst followed his first innings haul of 4-47.

Finch had also shown his determination with the bat in England's first knock, steadying the innings by digging in to make an unbeaten 16 from 82 balls in 138 minutes.

Finch and his New Road team-mate Jack Haynes, who scored 28 and 27 in the Test, will now join up with England for the one-day series between the two countries.

Malik star turn with impressive batting

MAZEN Malik has started the season in fine style for the Staffordshire Wolves visually impaired cricket team.

Wolves have had a mixed opening with one victory, two draws and a defeat in four clashes. But Malik has been the star turn thanks to some impressive displays with the bat.

Malik and Janaid Mohammed both scored half-centuries while skipper Matt Boulding made 42 as Wolves piled up 199-6 from 26 overs against Herefordshire Bulldogs, who were rolled over in reply for 88.

That was followed by a loss against Lancashire Lions, who made 185-6 before bowling Wolves out for 113. Wolves were forced to hang on for a draw in the return clash with the Bulldogs. Malik top scored with 26 in a total of 79-6 after the Bulldogs had posted 199-3.

Malik then excelled against Wavertree Merseyside at Wolverhampton CC with an unbeaten 89 in Wolves' 180-8. In reply, Wavertree Merseyside ended on 150-4.



Walsall are in danger after 4-wicket loss

WEST Bromwich Dartmouth leapfrogged Shrewsbury and into third place in the Birmingham League premier division, 15 points behind leaders Berkswell, thanks to a four-wicket win over Walsall.

At the other end of the table, Walsall's defeat leaves them in trouble at the bottom with only Wolverhampton and Barnt Green below them.

Alex Mellor scored 41 in a Walsall total of 165, while his Staffordshire team-mate Brinder Phagura took 4-56. Another Staffordshire player, county captain Kadeer Ali guided Dartmouth to victory, despite 3-33 from Walsall skipper Paul Wicker.

Streety still hold a 19-point lead over Astwood Bank despite losing to them in the battle of division two's bottom sides. Neil Curtis hit 60 as Streety reached 193 all out with 15-year-old Josh Baker taking 4-52 for Astwood Bank, who were helped to victory by a third wicket stand of 119 between Steve Adshead (77) and Sam Thomas (56). Sagar Mangalorkar took 5-41 for Streety.

Off-spinner Ryan Brown took 9-63 to send Lichfield tumbling for 178 all out in division three, after Pelsall had closed on 296, Todd Henderson with 140. Lichfield off-spinners Nick Richards and Jacob Warren, as well as opening bowler Graham Wilson, took three wickets apiece.

Joe Samuels (100) and Thomas Fellows (129) piled on a 211-run stand as Bloxwich racked up 307 against Springvale in the Staffs Clubs Championship. Paul Baker hit 62 in reply but Springvale (212) lost by 95 runs.

Will Fleet was unbeaten on 68 as Cannock (148-4) beat Aldridge (144) by six wickets. A 71 from Ghulam Abbas helped Walsall YPF to 202 and a three-wicket win over Wolverhampton 3rds (200).

Alan Dunn took 5-39 and Daniel Armstrong scored 57, but in vain as Rushall (208) lost to Penkridge (323-9) by 115.

'Blade' cuts down rival to take crown

BRAD 'The Blade' Foster has been crowned the Midlands Area super bantamweight champion – the first person to hold the title for 14 years.

The 21-year-old Lichfield boxer defeated Leon Gower at Walsall's Banks's Stadium. The unbeaten pair went toe-to-toe for the belt on BCB Promotions' epic three-fight dinner show in the Stadium Suite.

At the end of the eighth round, the fight was stopped as Burton's Gower touched the canvas for the second time.

The opening bout saw former kick-boxer Dani Hodges win her first professional bout against Teodora Hristov. The Burtwood boxer recorded a deserved 39-37 win. Rachel Ball defeated Eftychia Kathopoulis 57-55 after six absorbing rounds. This victory took Ball's record to 4-0. She broke Kathopoulis' nose and cut her on both eyes whilst Ball herself suffered a cut on the top of the forehead.

On the ball for Dutch giants' visit



The ballboys with Wolves captain Danny Batth

A GROUP of Penkridge pupils enjoyed a fantastic day at The Banks's Stadium, acting as ball boys as Dutch giants Ajax took on Wolves and Walsall.

For the first game, the youngsters, from years 5 and 6 at Penkridge Middle School, formed a guard of honour as Wolves and Ajax entered the pitch. They had a close view of the action as the teams draw 1-1, with Ruben Neves on target for Wolves.

After the game, players signed autographs and the boys met Wolves captain Danny Batth. After a brief break the boys headed to Walsall's train-

ing pitch for a football session organised by the club's community coaches, before then taking on the ballboy role again for the Walsall game, which the Saddlers won 2-0.

Walsall director of community Adam Davy praised the lads for their fabulous behaviour and enthusiasm on what was an extremely long day. One pupil, William Preston, had his day cut short after sustaining an injury after training so was unable to take part in Walsall game. He was rewarded with a signed matchball.

BOSS KEEN TO SCOUR MARKET

BOSS Dean Keates remains confident Walsall will sign the right players this summer as he continues to assess his options in the transfer market.

As the countdown to the new season continues, the Saddlers squad is light on numbers – particularly in defence where Jon Guthrie is the only senior centre-back.

Keates is currently monitoring a number of trialists who impressed in Walsall's 2-0 friendly win over Ajax, in which Andy Cook scored twice.

Tomas Egert, Christian Mbulu and Tom Brewitt were three of the four trialists given an opportunity to impress, though Czech defender Egert could still remain at Burton Albion, Brewers boss Nigel Clough has revealed.

It is understood Bolton defender Adam Mitchell is the mystery centre-back who featured for the Saddlers in the win against Ajax. The New Zealand international, whose mother is Croatian, impressed in youth football in his homeland before being spotted by Red Star Belgrade.

Available

Mitchell had a number of loans while with Serbian giants before joining Bolton where he impressed for their under-23 side.

But while he is still training with the Championship side, he is available on a free transfer.

And Keates will have another look at all four players this week as he continues to work to strengthen his squad.

"I'm confident we'll have the right bodies in soon enough," Keates said. "We know the structure we want and which way we want to go."

Alongside the trialists, Stoke boss Gary Rowett has also offered to loan Walsall players for the new season with Ryan Sweeney and Harry Souttar understood to be available. Rowett made the offer in the wake of Kory Roberts suffering a double leg break in a friendly against his side.

Take advantage of free tennis



Coaches Simon Kellar, John Millard, Van Willerton, Clayton Edge, Ben Walton and Joseph Schwenk

TENNIS fans can net free sessions in Walsall thanks to a national charity.

Tennis For Free has launched the sessions on Saturdays at Holland Park, Brownhills, from 11am to noon, at Pelsall Common, from 12.30 to 1.30pm and at Walsall Arboretum, from 2-3pm.

Additional sessions are held at Leamore Park, from 5-6pm on Wednesdays.

The initiative began last weekend and all equipment is provided. Local tennis coach and sites organiser Clayton Edge said: "By having so many sessions we can attract young and old, those who work and those who don't."

"It is a fantastic opportunity for all members of the local area to try tennis for either the first time or to dust off the cobwebs and try again." Sign up at www.tennisforfree.com

Swimmers make waves at Open Meet

MEMBERS of a Walsall swimming club made waves with a number of top performances. For several Broadway Swimmers, the event in Stourbridge was their very first Open Meet.

The shining stars were: Matthias Henry, who took silver in the 100m individual medley and the 50m butterfly and a bronze in the 50m freestyle; Thomas Mobbs took bronze at 50m butterfly and 50m backstroke; Elodie Rollins claimed bronze for the 50m butterfly and 50m breaststroke, as well as fifth in the 100m individual medley; Adam Guild won gold in the 50m breaststroke and silver for the 50m freestyle; Abigail Ingram clinched 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle bronze; Ewan Terry brought home a 50m freestyle bronze; Jensen Proctor won bronze in the 100m individual medley and was fourth in the 50m freestyle; Callum Fletcher was fifth 50m breaststroke.

Making up the team were Ellie Sammons, Olivia Kelly, Amy Robotham, Tabitha Rollins, Muneet Kaur Khara, Rhianna-Mae Powell, Millie Harmon and Katie Bell.

Following on from a previous competition, the team have gone on to achieve a number of County Qualifying Times and Personal Bests. Megan Butler, Blake Webb, Elodie Rollins and Jensen Proctor, all achieved County Qualifying times, while Millie Harmon, Matthias Henry, Ewan Terry, Thomas Mobbs and Callum Fletcher, and Riya Mistry all claimed PBs.

Experienced striker Richards joins Pics

RUSHALL Olympic have signed 37-year-old striker Justin Richards.

Richards began his career at Albion and went on to have spells at Bristol Rovers, Peterborough United, Port Vale and Burton Albion as well as playing for non-league sides Sutton Coldfield Town, Stourbridge and Tamworth recently.

"I am really excited to have Justin on board," said manager Liam McDonald. "He's big, strong, mobile and has plenty of experience."

Former Pics striker Alex Reid, 22, has joined Stevenage from Fleetwood. He joined the Cod Army in January 2017, but played just one first-team game.

★ ★ ★

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